

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On August 31st, at 7, Stewart Terrace, Peak, the wife of the Honourable Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE, a daughter.

On August 21st, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. ALBRECHT SCHULTZ, a daughter.

On August 22nd, at Shanghai, the wife of S. A. SEREBRENIKOW, of a daughter. [Mrs. Serebrenikow was married at Hongkong, where she was Miss Queenie Strachan.]

MARRIAGE.

On August 11th, at the Imperial German Consulate, Tientsin, CAROLINE GERTRUD, daughter of EMIL GIFFERICH, to LEOPOLD BIELFELD.

DEATH.

On August 18th, at Shanghai, ANDREW McKECHNIE, of Kilmarnock, Scotland, First Officer, Revenue Cruiser *Ping Ching*, Imperial Maritime Customs, aged 52 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of 31st July arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Heinrich*, on Monday, the 27th ultimo; and the French Mail of August 3rd arrived, per the s.s. *Galaxie*, today.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A big seam of good "smokeless" coal has been discovered in Japan.

Sir John Anderson opened a very successful agri-horticultural show at Singapore on August 16th.

A Belgian company asked permission to install electric tramways in Peking, but the application has been refused.

Japanese papers say that Sir Claude MacDonald, British Ambassador, will leave for home about October 15th.

Several capitalists of Osaka and Kobe seek to establish a shipbuilding yard at Aizawa, in the district of Akao, near Kobe.

According to official returns, the foreigners now imprisoned in Japan are 16 Chinese, 7 Koreans, 3 Britons, 3 Russians, and 1 Frenchman.

A contemporary says that the statue of Queen Victoria in Bangkok is becoming an object of veneration to some of the people, who bow to it in the same way as to the figure of Buddha.

The *China Review* remarks:—It is a most noticeable fact, and one that should open the eyes of many to what is going on—that, of the fourteen vessels at the Taku anchorage, no less than ten are Japanese!

The situation in Persia seems to be not unlike that in China. The disturbers of the peace are mainly students, and their ambition is a representative constitution. Reforms have been promised, but not granted.

A Tientsin telegram to the *Daily Press* dated Aug. 30th, said:—Mr. N. Laptev, consul for Russia, Portugal and Denmark, was shot yesterday in the Consulate by a Polish resident, and died to-day. The murderer has been arrested.

Two fatalities are attributable to the thunderstorm which passed over Hongkong on Sunday. A cook at Hunghom while preparing the midday meal was struck by lightning and killed instantly. A similar fate befel a youth in charge of a sampan.

Nearly three weeks ago a train proceeding from Harbin for Changchun was attacked by a band of Hungtuzes near Imaho. The driver was obliged to stop, and the train was plundered. About 50 passengers were captured. When the Russian soldiers arrived the next day they found six passengers had been killed.

Though the recent fracas between Indians and Chinese at Yau-mati has intensified the feelings of animosity between the two peoples there, the extra precautions of the police have prevented a recurrence of the disturbance. An outbreak was expected on Saturday, but the report so far is that all is quiet in the neighbourhood.

A contemporary remarks:—Should Sir Robert Hart resign at this time his successor is almost sure to be his deputy in the administration of the Maritime Customs, Sir Robert Bredon, who is well known to be in favour of certain reforms in the personnel of the Customs staff which would be a concession to Chinese pride and help them to regard with less dissatisfaction the system of administration, at present entirely in the hands of foreigners.

The Throne has sanctioned the propositions for the establishment of national paper works and printing offices at Peking, Tientsin, and Shanghai. The paper factory will produce European paper, like Chinese paper, for the use of the divers administrations of the Empire. The printing works will be exclusively reserved for printing the necessary books for the public and private schools and colleges. Europeans and Japanese will be appointed to direct these national establishments.

Omitting cents, following were the total Customs collections for the June quarter at local ports. The figures in parentheses are for the corresponding quarter of 1906. Amoy Tls. 201,048 (189,145), Swatow Tls. 340,391 (375,471), Canton Tls. 720,347 (713,614), Kongmoon Tls. 29,108 (26,804), Samshui Tls. 36,672 (44,231), and Wuchow Tls. 101,048 (137,935). The quarterly total for all thirty ports was Hongkong Tls. 8,960,971, against Tls. 9,613,371 in the same quarter of 1905.

Even at the new tariff, at which the socialists are protesting and trying to institute a boycott, Tokyo's tram service will be the cheapest in the world. From any part of the city to any other part it will be only a penny. There would be something to say if electric trams could be run at exceptionally cheap rates in Tokyo. But they can not. Not only is coal very dear but also all the plant of the power stations and all machinery of the cars have to be imported thousands of miles over-sea, so that, on the whole, the generating of power and the equipping of a line cost more than they do in Europe or America.

The Chinese opium smuggler is nothing if not resourceful, observes the *Bangkok Times*. There came from Hongkong to Bangkok, by the *Loosok* the other day, a Chinaman whose principal luggage consisted of a signboard of portentous size and weight. Never before was such a signboard brought to Bangkok. The Customs guards sat round and admired it, from every point of view. They went so far as to bore a small hole in it and this led them to obtain other tools with the result that it was found not to be of solid wood, but of thin boards back and front, cunningly joined to a square frame. The interior was hollow and filled with flat tins all containing opium. The owner of the sign was then arrested.

A Chinese accountant carrying a parcel containing \$10 in twenty cent pieces, engaged a chair in Wellington Street to take him to Morrison Hill Road. Before seating himself in the chair he placed his money in a corner of the seat. At Morrison Hill Road, on alighting, he entered a friend's house quite forgetting his valuable parcel. Some ten minutes afterwards he missed it, and after searching the vicinity for the chair without avail, he reported the matter at No. 2 Police Station. He told the police he could not remember the number of the chair, but thought he could recognise the bearers. A detective was despatched to assist him in his search and some time afterwards the chair was found on the stand near Thomas' Hotel. The accountant asked the bearers what had become of his \$100, but they knew nothing about the matter, and on the chair being examined the parcel was found where he had left it. The coolies received a cunshaw of twenty cents.

EXTENSIONS AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 25th August.)

"MACHIAVELLIAN" is an adjective which is commonly used to-day even by people who never heard of the Italian writer, to signify political duplicity, cunning, and unscrupulousness; and yet it would not be unfair to suggest that lately there have been a great many good people ready to argue on the same lines as MACHIAVELLI would argue, in connection with public affairs. "My country, right or wrong", is pure Machiavellianism, and it really would not offend so many of us were it phrased less awkwardly. In the re-action against the sentimentalism that characterises the new breed of British publicists, and that is responsible for so many mistakes, we dumbly dream of MACHIAVELLI's ideal ruler, who had to be entirely free from "emotional disturbance". A *Times* reviewer has remarked that "Machiavellism is only the most extreme form of that which all States and nearly all statesmen have recognised as a right or at least a justifiable rule of conduct under the name and form of the '*raison d'état*'". The late Lord Acton, an authority on the subject, said the historian and politician whom our dictionaries now unanimously slander, was "not a vanishing type but a constant and contemporary influence". We consider the last remark to have been a most happy one, for it seems to stand good for all time. We have discovered at Shanghai the gospel of MACHIAVELLI, or, to put it in a way less hurtful to tender consciences, the gospel of expediency in matters affecting the well-being of the state. It seems there is considerable argument over the business of extending the Settlement boundaries in a northerly direction, so as to embrace the district of Paoshan within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council of Shanghai. This argument is not confined to Chinese *versus* Foreigners. It appears that there are some foreigners who consider that it is an unfair attempt to over-reach the Chinese. These are probably people who are unable to admit that ethics for the individual cannot always fit the community, who are unable to recognise that the moral environment of the private citizen is simpler and more determinate than it can be in the case of an administrative corporation. From their point of view, the Chinese undoubtedly are in the right, and the foreigners in the wrong; and we suspect that it is the mistake of arguing with them on the wrong ground that has made their opponents angry enough to hurl words like "cant" at them. We have so often emphasised the anomalous position of the Shanghai Municipal Council, so often pointed out that its special circumstances alter cases, and so often warned our friends to be wary in admitting even the most seeming obvious of premises, but the same thing happens over and over again. As between the statement of Taotai JUI-CHENG to the Wai-wu-pu, and the arguments of the champions of the Municipal Council, it is not difficult to decide in which side strict justice lies—from the point of view indicated. The foreign arguments, on that basis, are weak. That foreign residents have always regarded the ultimate extension of the Settlement on the North as a foregone conclusion settles nothing. That the swag will ultimately be safely secured is the burglar's foregone conclusion. Another argument that invites a crushing retort reads, "It must be patent to the TAOTAI as well as to the Central Government that this area would not have been taken up so largely, if it had been

regarded as possible that as soon as a residential suburb had sprung into being, it would be handed over to Chinese municipal mismanagement." The assumption behind the two words italicised can only be described as a cool one. It is admitted, we suppose, that Paoshan is not a part of the Model Settlement, yet, except so far as a foregone conclusion made it; and therefore the TAOTAI had ample reason for his bitter sarcasm, when he said, "As they say that I, the TAOTAI, do not understand the treaties, there is no doubt that they know them themselves. I desire to inquire what treaty is there for a foreign guest to object to the self-government of this country and the construction of roads and establishment of a police force for the protection of merchants?" The only possible arguments in favour of the foreign case in this matter are Machiavellian; and it will be noted that we do not accept the conventional meaning of the adjective, when we proceed to add that they are very good arguments indeed. It is certainly most expedient that the suburb of Paoshan should enjoy the advantages of incorporation with the Model Settlement, and we do not believe that either Chinese or foreign residents there can be found who object on moral grounds. There may be some who fear the exaction of rates, but in their case all argument is pure waste of time. We support the Shanghai Municipal Council, *pour raison d'état*, for the greatest good of the greatest number.

DIFFICULTIES AGAINST CHINESE REFORM.

(Daily Press, 27th August.)

That the expressed wish of the Chinese Government to place the government on a constitutional basis is not a mere fad, but a desire shared by the nation at large, is becoming daily more evident. Little things like feathers indicate the current of the national thought. A few years ago the nation as a whole thought little of all these things. The government of the land for centuries had gone on in the same groove without the people bestowing on it one thought. Emperors died and were succeeded—one was just the counterpart of the other—and except that each in turn bestowed upon the years of his reign some definite title by which the people at large dated their accounts, their subjects knew nothing, and troubled themselves as little, as to who occupied the throne, were he Turk, Mongol or Kitan, Han, Tang or Ts'ing. With the exception of the New Year, and the spring and autumn festivals dedicated to the worship of the Manes, every species of celebration had practically died out, and from year's end to year's end the whole nation had dedicated itself to one continuous and unvarying round of toil. In this respect a noticeable and remarkable change has passed over the minds of the people, and is perhaps most noticeable where they have been most thrown into immediate contact with foreign influences. Perhaps the first sign of this reviving feeling occurred in the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival on the fifth day of the fifth moon. Traditionally the festival was in celebration of the self-immolation of a patriotic minister who drowned himself rather than witness his country's degradation. Except in a comparatively few localities it had practically died out, and even in those few it had lost much of its former éclat. In many if not most localities public interest in the festival has recently been revived, and it is now kept as a gala day wherever a sufficient water space permits of aquatic sports. Till a few

years ago, again, such public celebrations as the Imperial birthdays were entirely confined to the official classes, and not the slightest notice of them was taken by the people at large. Now every well-to-do Chinaman makes on those days as conspicuous a display of bunting as if he were a citizen of the Great Republic itself. The Chinese national flag is itself of probably more ancient date than that of any other people, yet till within the last twenty years it was seldom or never to be seen in China, even on official occasions; and when it did appear it was governed by no rule as to design or proportions, but each maker followed in these respects his own devices. Now in the larger cities on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday, the principal thoroughfares are brilliant with yellow flags, each displaying the Imperial Dragon, while more or less the entire mercantile class make a holiday out of the occasion. Now in all this we must recognise an unconscious return in China of that feeling of nationality without which no nation has ever risen to greatness, nor made itself respected in the councils of the world: and as such we must look upon the movement as full of promise for the future of China. Unfortunately, as frequently happens under similar conditions elsewhere a class of merely self-seeking reactionaries have been endeavouring to turn the new movement into an instrument of private pelf, and under the pretence of turning foreign intercourse to the sole benefit of the Chinese themselves, have been actually scheming a retrograde movement to the worst times of the feeble and debauched successors of K'ienlung on the Imperial Throne.

Now although the Court at Peking, with the willing assent of the nation at large, is indubitably acting in good faith in its design of introducing a constitutional régime, it is quite otherwise with these pretended progressives—amongst the bureaucracy. With the solitary exception of Russia, no nation on earth possesses so corrupt a bureaucratic system as China; and the cause is in both instances very similar, and proceeds from financial errors committed centuries ago. In both empires the land has been assumed to belong to the ruler appointed by God to govern the nation and only subject to this theocratic suzerainty had the people as such any personal rights. The powers thus inherent in the sovereign in both cases have been recognised as delegated to those officials appointed by him as his representatives. The mandarin is thus in the position of parent to the people in more senses than one. Not only is it held to uphold their interests as a parent protects the material interests of his child, but it is also as regards him possessed of the *patria potestas*, not only moral but physical; and not only over his person but over his property. It is easy to see that such a principle contains within itself the elements of dissolution. Logically the appointment of the Emperor confers personal rights on the magistrate, who enjoys the usufruct of the estate as would a private proprietor during his term of office. Logically too the Emperor has the right of overlord of sharing in the profits, and dictating his own terms in the appointment. The consequence of this recognised position is that practically every appointment in the Empire has its assessed price, which has to be accounted for in the case of the lower offices, to the high provincial officers, and in the case of the latter, to the Court. Coincident with the rule of the eunuch, which in China, as in all other Asiatic nations in their periods of decadence, comes

very real, these practically regular vails have to be supplemented by all manner of irregular contributions, with the result that the provincial officer, whether inclined or not to meet his engagements, has to adopt similar measures amongst the people committed to his charge. Now it is precisely this financial element that all parties, whether belonging to the Court or to the mandarin, have tacitly consented to let slide; yet it is on this that the possibility of a constitutional system actually rests. So long as the system of practically selling office forms the only means of support to Peking, so long must any check acting through a mere provincial chamber prove utterly ineffective to remove present abuses. The first and fundamental principle at the root of the present system of government—namely, that the Emperor, as such, is lord of the soil, and not of the soil only but of all those who inhabit it—must be once and for all abolished; and with it must go the equally untenable right of the Emperor to exact from his appointees compensation for their appointments. Constitutional law, on the other hand, demands that in all these things the head of the State obtains his rights from the governed, and as such receives his emoluments as servant, not as owner. Of course all this is in accordance with the most ancient of Chinese doctrines. By these theories, amplified by MENCIUS, the Emperor indeed rules as the vice-regent of T'ientse; but it is left for the people to judge whether he is worthy of the trust; and his failure to prove this looses the constitutional bonds between him and his subjects. It may not be agreeable with the national feeling of the Empire at large to put these principles in the form of so many hard and fast rules; but the very first thing to be acknowledged before the idea even of constitutional government can be practically broached, is that some separate provision must be made for the support of the Imperial Household, and that the system of provincial vails must be for ever abolished under any pretext whatever. It is the absence of any genuine feeling of this sort that indicates the artificial nature of the movement; and the want is not peculiar to the Court but permeates almost the entire body of officialdom. A few individuals, indeed, have commenced to grasp the first beginnings of the financial problem, but this is so contrary to the instincts of the Court and the bureaucracy that the mere mention of such a reform would retard, if it would not effectually destroy, any hope of future official promotion. Unfortunately, in the absence of any independent class in China, the sole avenue to influence lies in official rank; and so affairs mutually react on one another. This is always to throw back into the slough of despond any hope of self purification.

A PLEA FOR A DIGNIFIED NATIONAL CONSCIENCE.

(Daily Press, 28th August.)

THE BISHOP's reference to the abolition of slavery, in his anti-opium sermon which we reported yesterday, serves to start once more a train of thought leading to curious reflections concerning the nature of what is called "national conscience". We have frequently drawn attention to the sentimental character of many of its more recent demonstrations, and it may be we have unwittingly confirmed the impression, apparently held in many minds, that this sentimentalism is a new attribute of civilised society. It is not, although many writers appear to consider that it has become

much more pronounced in the last two generations. There will not be wanting scoffers to declare that the promptings of the national conscience often rest on humbug or hypocrisy; but we incline to the less harsh view that the extremer sentimentalists are victims of a form of self-deceit. They undoubtedly mean well; let us forbear the familiar reference to a pavement of good intentions, and remember that their ethical arguments to begin with have our universal approval, and that we split only when it comes to ways and means of giving effect to them. Offhand, nearly every decent thinking man is ready to affirm that Great Britain could consistently take no other action than that she took in connection with slavery. Truth, however, has more than one side for some whose claim to honour is as just as the average cocksure person's. PROFESSOR SKRINE has recorded his opinion that England's part in the emancipation of slaves in 1833 was due to "a fit of national hysteria", and that it had evil results as well as good. Supposing, however, that what was done was altogether the right thing to do, it is a pity that it could not have been unaccompanied by the emotionalism which history teaches has been responsible for as much national crime as virtue. The bishops should warn the people against spasmodic piety, instead of inciting semi-pious spasms. It is not pleasant to remember that if PROFESSOR SKRINE be right, England did its duty in a burst of emotion caused by reading a work of fiction—the imaginary sorrows of UNCLE TOM were invented to make impossible the real sorrows of real persons, which would presumably have appeared less romantic, and so less likely to touch the national conscience. Years later, MR. GLADSTONE, with his Bulgarian atrocities pamphlet, fanned into flame another of these hysteric ebullitions due to artificially stimulated consciences. This week's telegrams show us Bulgaria beset on three sides, and it is no exaggeration to say that from prior to MR. GLADSTONE's politic cultivation of the national sentimentalism to the present day, things have been constantly occurring there which as humanitarians we are bound to deplore. The great moral indignation of that particular time was due, it will be remembered, to the emphasis put on certain unsavoury aspects of "man's inhumanity to man". To paraphrase a remark of one of MARK TWAIN'S French duellists, it is not death that the national conscience feels, but mutilation. A British conqueror may nearly exterminate a rebellious tribe during a well directed campaign, and the nation will attend services of thanksgiving; but let him flog or hang a few rebels, as an example tending to prevent fresh slaughter, and the national conscience is up in arms against such "methods of barbarism". The British Press is the worst tubthumper of them all, in respect of this illogical emotionalism; probably, as the vox populi, it cannot help itself. But it was curious to watch how after a romantic crime in Madrid—we mean a crime committed under circumstances that added a flavour of romance to the outrage—they raised an outcry against anarchy and anarchists; while all the while, and to a unit, they were expressing sympathy with the cause of Russia's revolutionaries. To avoid political sentimentalism is not to ignore our duty to our neighbour. Unfortunately, those who at Home at present are so readily declaring various things "morally indefensible," as a rule seem to be concerned with their duty to their neighbour's neighbour, a somewhat different thing.

CONDITIONS IN MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 29th August.)

THE merit of a message like that we reproduce elsewhere in this issue, relating to conditions in Manchuria, is that we know from whom and whence it comes. DR. MORRISON is no more infallible than any other writer, but at least we know his abilities and his fairmindedness. The text of his message, considered in the light of his well-known sympathies, is very significant. While doing full justice to the Japanese, he allows no misunderstanding of his opinion that considerable changes of the conditions are desirable. When all is said, however, nothing more definite is alleged against Japan than that she has followed certain precedents established by Russia and other Powers. Throughout this lengthy and careful statement, it is clear that as usual the onus is on China, unless we consent to dwell on the academic but useless arguments of those who persist that China is justified in resenting the presence of any foreign Power in the land at all. We are shown that Japan's endeavours to open Dalny, if they do not succeed by the promised date, now only three days off, have been hampered by the usual Chinese niggling policy; while in the matter of the opening of Mukden, an interesting parallel with the recent history of Changsha is afforded. Those who followed the controversy started by the treatment of the pioneer trader BENNETZ will be struck by DR. MORRISON'S phrase. He says the Chinese advance the "preposterous contention that the opening of Mukden means the opening of an unoccupied area outside Mukden". If it is so preposterous a contention in the case of Mukden, it was doubly preposterous in the case of Changsha, where the area offered was, as we repeatedly pointed out, not only unoccupied but unoccupiable. There is also room for a suspicion that in their chaffering with Japan, over the restoration of Manchuria, the Chinese may be enjoying the doubtful advantage of Russian advice, privately tendered. There is nothing to warrant more than the bare suspicion, however, at present; and in any case it does not make their attitude much worse. In such matters the Chinese do not stand in need of tuition; such devious diplomacy seems to be quite innate and characteristic. The protests of the Chinese as to the presence of growing numbers of a certain discreditable class of Japanese in Manchuria, although fully warranted from our point of view, would have had much more force if they had been preceded by similar protests before the war, during the Russian regime, when the same symptoms were apparent. The Japanese regret such a state of things as much as anyone does; in fact their strong objection to it is proved by the rigorous precautions they take with regard to their emigrants. These, however, like most laws, are liable to evasion. The only serious charge against Japan seems to be the expropriation of so much of the river frontage at Antung, which is declared to be, even by Japan's best friends, an evasion of the "open-door" principle. It was, of course, the act of the military administration, and the civil government may not ultimately confirm it. Were Great Britain in the same case, and proposing to relinquish such advantages, it is easy to imagine the outcry that would be raised against the meddling government. It would cause more fuss than the abandonment of Wei-hai-wei. Of most of these grievances we have so far heard very little, and, indeed, we have very little to do with

them. If, as is alleged, Japan made war in the name of the principle of the open door, the nations who stood by and allowed her so to champion an international cause should not be too impatient, nor too ready to condemn any minor falls from grace. The dissatisfaction of which we have heard the most on the China coast has really come from the Anglo-Saxon trading community, and the complaint is merely that while they, American and British importers, must pay duty at Newchwang, Japanese importers at Dalny and Russians at Vladivostok could get goods in free. There is a parable in the New Testament, about the engagement of labourers in a vineyard, which very well fits this devotion to the principle of "equality of opportunity". As to the entire justice of the complaints, Dr. MORRISON seems to make it fairly clear that they are a natural result of disappointment. The enterprising trader assumed that the restoration of peace would inaugurate a period of immense commercial activity in Manchuria. It did not, and the result is that the "hustlers" are now suffering for their miscalculations.

QUARTERLY TRADE RETURNS FROM CANTON.

(Daily Press, 30th August.)

The *Customs Gazette* with the trade returns for the second quarter of this year has reached us. As usual, we are enabled thereby to gather a hint of how business stands in our own immediate neighbourhood. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 1905, the tonnage entered at Canton shows a decrease of 899 vessels or 13,414 tons. This represents the difference in the gross figures for each period. More interest attaches to the tables of imports. Compared with the corresponding quarters of three previous years, there is a very noticeable growth in the opium trade, chiefly in Patna. The three Indian brands were imported as follows, Malwa, 182.55 piculs, Patna, 2,048.09 piculs, and Benares, 448.36 piculs. This was altogether 221 piculs more than was imported in the same quarter last year. The growth of the native import may be measured by the following figures, representing piculs: 0.94 in 1904, 93.19 in 1905, and 145.44 in 1906. The whole opium import therefore shows an increase for the quarter of 273 piculs. Lumping together the import of cotton goods, we find a big drop, the only increase being in chintzes and plain prints. Without exception, every other item seems to have been in considerably less demand. For the 1905 quarter, the import of Indian yarn was 29,150 piculs; this year it was only 19,689, a result, apparently, of the suicidal dumping policy of the Indian dealers, lately checked. There appears to be a growing appetite at Canton for mixtures (Alpacas, Lustres, and Orleans), the quarterly figures, representing yards, being 3,359 in 1903, 4,327 in 1904, 9,770 in 1905, and 16,176 this year. Pure woollens about hold their own, thanks mainly to the steady popularity of "Spanish Stripes". Either the Mints are glutted, or the Chinese have discovered the secret of copper cash depreciation, for there was a big decrease in metal imports. The quarter's supply of copper last year was nearly twenty-five thousand piculs; in the quarter ending June last it was only seven thousand. The only increase was in tinned plates, which considerably more than regained the position they held two years ago. Still comparing with the corresponding quarter of 1905, we find that Canton absorbed fifteen thousand tons of

coal instead of six thousand, 53,088 piculs of flour instead of 48,618, and 2,429,000 gallons of kerosene instead of 3,041,000. This decrease represents a slump in Sumatra oil in bulk, 1,196,451 gallons, against none previously. There has been no Russian oil for three years. Rice imports were very much larger, as was to be expected. Sugar imports also very largely increased. Exports were considerably greater, considered in bulk. The chief increases noticeable were in beans, fireworks, mats, medicines, and paper. There was a falling off in the export of silk, chiefly in steam filatured raw. A new item figuring in the table of re-exports is 330,060 gallons of American kerosene.

CONGRESSES.

(Daily Press, 31st August.)

We see by the official report of the proceedings at the sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London (reports of which we published a few weeks ago), that the Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART denounced one resolution as being outside the scope of the congress. We are glad to have this example, for we entertain the opinion that there were several features of that conference which would have been better omitted. What Mr. GERSHOM STEWART objected to was the following resolution by a Toronto representative:

"It is resolved that in the opinion of this Congress the Naturalization Laws of the various parts of the Empire should be so unified as to make any citizen who has been duly naturalized in any part of his Majesty's Dominions a British subject wherever the flag waves, and entitled to the full rights and privileges of a native born."

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART asked the mover of the resolution whether he wished to include the whole of the British Empire. In Hongkong the Naturalization Laws worked very well, but if the Chinese in Hongkong were to be endowed with the full privileges of British subjects, he presumed Canada would willingly accept them and allow them freely to enter their country. He thought the resolution was rather outside the scope of the Congress, and would never have been brought forward by any man resident in the middle of a great native population, with its racial peculiarities and the colour question. He strongly recommended the meeting to leave the resolution alone, but, if it would not do that, he asked them to consider very seriously the question of men who were perfectly happy under the British flag, whom the British flag protected, but at whose disposal the British Empire refused to put the whole of its forces should they get into trouble. The last dozen words of the resolution killed it. We presume that if the Canadians had been so much surrounded by Hurons and Eskimos as some other colonials are by other races, such an impossible proposal would never have been forthcoming. It is to be noted that from the KEIR HARDIE point of view it is sound in morals and unimpeachable in logic. To deny to duly naturalized British subjects the fullest civic rights is, as the BISHOP or the Radical Parliament would say, "morally indefensible". With so many striking object lessons of the impossibility of confining social and political matters between the straight lines of an idealistic parallel, it is a wonder that the sentimentalists should retain such a following. But the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire was as emotional as it could well have been. During the discussion of the important subject of the postal rate on imperial publications, Lieut.

Col. W. N. PONTON administered a very dignified rebuke to certain gentlemen "who perhaps had not given every consideration and thought to the matter, and were taking away a great deal of the dignity and importance of the Congress as a deliberate body" by their impatient cries of "vote, vote". There was no great hurry, even at the point of adjournment for lunch, when the PRESIDENT proposed to transmit birthday congratulations to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. By far the greatest discussion took place over Preferential Tariffs, a very important subject, but one that had for the time ceased to be a political issue. We do not go so far as to say the discussion was outside the scope of the Congress, but it was certainly marred by the rankest kind of sentimentalism. One gentleman from Macclesfield, whose long and not particularly solid speech was punctuated with cheers, perpetrated the remarkable prophecy that "the degrading, the unfortunate, and the humiliating spectacle would be seen of British tars wearing handkerchiefs made in Germany." But we have no desire to argue either way about Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S policy. We may be able to do a little good by getting a man here and there to think for himself of the danger of political emotionalism; and for an object lesson the Congress serves as well as any other. A Chamber of Commerce is a very useful institution indeed, operating in its own district. It knows the local circumstances and needs, and practical results follow its discussions. A Congress of Chambers, however, attempts the impossible. It seeks principles that will fit every corner of a vast empire, and such things are unattainable. What might suit Canada, as Mr. GERSHOM STEWART in effect pointed out, would be suicidal to Hongkong or India. This is the one important limitation the congresses and politicians ought to bear constantly in mind, and so often strangely forget. The present Liberal Government has found trouble in fitting principles made in London to Peking and Johannesburg; and it is just as useless for a Congress of Chambers of Commerce to expect to establish rulings for the whole Empire. In theory, the Congress should lead to informative exchanges of views, and inculcate tolerance and respect for other men's opinions. It does not, because, as we have seen, frail human nature goes to the discussion obsessed by its strictly parochial point of view, strongly prejudiced, and instead of listening and pondering, it cries "vote, vote". It is a pessimistic and discouraging view to take, but it is doubtful if these Congresses ever accomplish anything worth the trouble and expense.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

(Daily Press, 1st September.)

The priest controls the peasant and the Pope controls the priest: otherwise, the present relations of the French Government and the Vatican would appear in the light of an archaic absurdity. Frenchmen in the Far East appear to be vastly indignant at the POPE'S Encyclical to the French bishops, and before other nationals can understand why they take Rome so seriously, they must review the situation. Once, of course, there was a temporal Power at the Vatican; and the renewed troubles between Church and State in France are chiefly due to the fact that a point of State etiquette happened to be viewed by the Vatican through the eye of diplomacy, rather than through the eye of religion. Many people not closely interested assume that the Government of France has fallen into atheistic

hands, and that it is this which has incurred the displeasure of the Church, and provoked antipathetic legislation in contempt of that displeasure. Really, the cause of the trouble is much less worthy; it is almost ludicrous and certainly contemptible. President LOUBET visited the King of ITALY early in 1904, and omitted at the same time to visit His HOLINESS THE POPE. Various reasons have been suggested for the omission, but none should be necessary, if modern piety were half as real as modern pretence. The Papal authorities, however, protested bitterly in a private note, which was unfortunately later made public. The POPE strongly resented the action of M. LOUBET, as head of a Catholic State, pointedly recognising the Power that had deprived the POPE of his dominions. As a matter of fact, M. LOUBET had merely performed the necessary duty of returning a Royal visit, their Italian MAJESTIES having been in Paris the year before. Other Catholic Powers were circularised from Rome, and the publication of the protest aroused the indignation of the Republicans. The POPE ordered two bishops of Republican sympathies to resign and repair to Rome for disciplinary purposes; and in reply to this assertion of power, France recalled its ambassador from the Vatican. By this time the necessity of complete disestablishment had become fully apparent, and legislation to that end was started. The Vatican was accused by M. COMBES of having wilfully disregarded and violated the Concordat of 1801—by which, in return for recognition of State rights, NAPOLEON I. made an annual grant equivalent to £1,480,000, as some compensation for church property seized during the Revolution. Subsequent governments had arranged modifications of detail, but this principle remained intact, that the consent of the Civil Government was necessary for all appointments or dismissals of ecclesiastical dignitaries. The French government, therefore, could not submit to the POPE's attitude in the matter of the two bishops. Violent dissensions in the Chamber were only to be expected, but M. ROUVIER in succeeding M. COMBES last year showed that the noble ideal of liberty, equality, and fraternity must not be hindered by the tyranny of the cassock. Where before France legally recognised all religions, and made a grant to every sect that could boast of a hundred thousand adherents, now France washes its hands of them all; each sect must support itself and the State will not meddle, provided no sect presumes to meddle with the State. Education is removed entirely from church control, an example which Britain, as a Protestant country, should have been the first to set. By the law promulgated on December 9th, 1905, the churches are separated from the State, which is relieved from payment of salaries. The adherents of all creeds may form associations for public worship and all buildings actually used for public worship are to be made over after an inventory is taken of these various associations. Ecclesiastics over sixty years of age and with over thirty years of remunerative service under the State are entitled to a pension equal to three-fourths of that salary, and others according to their length of service. There are nearly forty thousand Catholic pensioners, seven hundred Protestants, and a few Jewish, who take about fr. 29,500,000 from the State. The POPE appears quite willing to goad the State into withdrawing this generous item, by his suicidal and unscriptural orders to the priesthood to resist the separation law.

There may be, directly incited by the Church, which hungers still after temporal dominion, more disorders and fatalities. It is a sad thing to contemplate, but it is consoling to believe that the flowing tide is with the party of common-sense and human dignity, and that in time to come all Frenchmen will blush to think of the folly of those misguided predecessors who failed to recognise the rottenness of the pretensions for which they fought.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

1st September.

The power of the private individual in a Crown Colony like this, where representative government is not contemplated, is greater than would appear at first sight. This fact is illustrated by the following incident, which also shows the Governor in a pleasant light. It has long been a grievance that the European children on the lower level were not so fortunate as those living on the Peak, where the Government had provided a playground for them. Most of the young folks are of course sent to the Gardens, but as they have to keep to the paths there is not much opportunity for them to romp and play. Animated with a desire to do something to brighten the lives of the little folks who do not dwell on the Peak a resident, I am informed, wrote to the Governor, drawing His Excellency's attention to the need for a playground for those children. The letter was not without result. With his usual courtesy, the Governor acknowledged the letter and invited the writer to meet him at the Gardens and discuss the position. The gentleman attended and found His Excellency ready to hear his propositions. Inquiry followed, and, while not officially announced yet, it is understood that the green in the Gardens will be set apart as a playground for children.

Gossip is still busy over the proceedings of the Government Commission, and though little of their doings has become public property, it is apparent from recent events that there are likely to be some startling disclosures. The sensations of the past fortnight have been the arrest of two sanitary inspectors on charges of bribery, and the trial at the Criminal Sessions a few weeks hence will be followed with the greatest interest by all members of the community.

Apparently the Commission has entered on a much bigger undertaking than was at first anticipated. Since the invitation was issued to those in a position to give evidence to come forward as witnesses there have been many fresh sources of information opened to the Commission, and, while one cannot expect an inside knowledge of the secret deliberations of this body, there are good grounds for believing that the inquiry is likely to be thorough and searching, and certainly much more protracted than six months, which was the first modest estimate of the duration of the Commission.

Yesterday, as all interested in local finance were aware, the dollar was worth 2/2. This is the highest price it has reached for many years—indeed we have to go back to 1896 to find the dollar representing so great a value, and then the average for the year was 2/2, while for the two previous years the average worked out at 2/1. Of course everyone knows that the dollar is only about half the value that it was thirty years ago. In 1874 the average for the year was 4s 2d. Then the average fell each year by about one penny, sometimes greater and sometimes less fluctuations, but its greatest drop took place in the beginning of the nineties, when for three years there was a decline of about fourpence noticeable between each January and December. Since 1894 the dollar has remained in the region of two shillings, and though it rose to 2s 2d two years later it had a big fall in 1902 and 1903.

Naturally the high rate of exchange is the source of much jubilation to those who stand to gain by sending remittances home, and the cause of growing anxiety to those who are paid on the sterling basis and monthly see their salaries becoming smaller and smaller.

In some of the large hongs of the Colony there are men who have received the usual annual increments, yet the remuneration they draw is less than when they began here three and four years ago. Those in the public service, though hopeful as to the future, are still complaining of dwindling salaries, and crying out for compensation. It is now quite three months since the Hon. Mr. Hewett raised the question in the Legislative Council, when he was told that the Government was already in communication with the Home Government on the subject. Perhaps it might be well to ask if no answer has yet been received. The Commission itself will doubtless take into consideration the situation of those men who are receiving much less salary than they used to do, owing to the system.

The trouble, however, is not due so much to the fluctuations of exchange as to the fact that two systems of currency are employed. Either we should adopt the sterling basis of the homeland or else adhere exclusively to the form of the decimal system which is really the currency of the Colony. Cash transactions calculated in sterling and completed in dollars and cents will never be satisfactory, and though there will always be an element of speculation in the rise and fall of the dollar, the conflict of interests occasioned by two systems being employed would disappear were the sterling basis to be eliminated from business transactions within the Colony.

It is doubtful even if the fixing of the dollar, which so many regard as a "consummation devoutly to be wished," would be so advantageous as its advocates claim. True, it would eliminate much of the speculation that at present is so undesirable and would help to steady certain commercial relationships, but at the same time it would be liable to serious consequences were the price of silver to fall to any extent in the great empire on which we depend for our trade. The experience of Singapore is not very encouraging, where many business houses report serious losses and some have been brought to bankruptcy. On the whole it seems better to tolerate the ills that we know rather than risk greater by hasty and ill considered attempts at standardisation.

BANYAN.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION.

It has been decided that the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, formerly arranged to take place in October, will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd November. This decision was arrived at a meeting of the committee held on Tuesday, when there were present—Sir Henry Berkeley (presiding), Hon. Dr. Clark, M. Liebert (French Consul), Mr. Wilder (American Consul), Messrs. Rim, Sayle, Lennox Bird, S. T. Dunn, and the secretary, Captain Marchant.

A finance committee consisting of Mr. Rim (chairman), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. Vernon and Fung Wa-chun, was appointed, and a working committee to look after decorations, etc., was constituted as follows:—M. Liebert (Chairman), Dr. Jordan, Messrs. Bird, Sayle, Gale, Ram, Major Pritchard, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Trenchard Davis and Mrs. Marchant.

The hope was expressed that the press would be able to give exhibits of the work they did, and for this purpose the secretary proposed to set aside a special section.

H. E. the Governor is patron and the committee is composed of Sir Henry Berkeley K. C. (Chairman), H. E. Colonel Darling, the Bishop of Victoria, Bishop Pozzoni, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Hon. Dr. Clark, the American, German, French, Japanese, Italian, Norwegian, Russian, Austrian, Portuguese, Dutch and Belgian Consuls, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Major Pritchard, Dr. Jordan, Messrs. Vernon, Ram Bowles, L. Bird, Fung Wa-chun, Mihara, S. T. Dunn, Gale, Sayle, Mrs. T. Davis, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Marchant, with power to add to their number.

It was announced that exhibits could not be accepted until 27th October.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, August 24th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NOT THE MAN.

The case was concluded in which Sudha Sing sued Ah Hau to recover the sum of \$30, money lent.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for plaintiff, and defendant appeared in person.

Mr. Gardiner said he would call the No. 1 fitter at the sugar refinery to prove that defendant was known by the name of Ah Hau.

His Lordship—Then I will put the bailiff in the box and upset that evidence. Your man produces a witness who contradicts him flatly as to where he left the money.

Mr. Gardiner—If the defendant is the man who received the money and signed the document, even although all other facts may be wrong, I submit he is bound to pay under that document.

His Lordship—Defendant says he is not the man. I sent the bailiff with a man to the shop where the document was supposed to have been signed, and the shopkeeper said he knew nothing about it.

Mr. Gardiner—The document may have been signed there, and this man may have taken no notice.

His Lordship—I will hear you, but I told you before I wouldn't believe your Chinese witness. This is just one of the old stories about the promissory note being handed from one to another.

Mr. Gardiner's witness was then called, and said he did not know a man named Ah Hau but the defendant was known as Ah Ho.

His Lordship—He says his name is Chan Ho.

Mr. Gardiner—But he gave the name of Ah Hau.

His Lordship—The "Ah" is nothing at all. It generally comes after the Christian name. Perhaps plaintiff will find a better witness in another Indian next time. The case is non-suited.

Defendant—Now your Lordship has discharged my case I wish to bring an action against the plaintiff.

His Lordship—Well, go and bring it. I don't mind. I think, however, you will lose money, but that is your lookout.

ALL ABOUT A MACHINE.

Tsang Hang sued Cheung Man to recover the sum of \$20 said to be due on a machine.

Plaintiff said he was a tailor, and had a machine in his shop which defendant took a fancy to. He sold it to him for \$20. He did not enter the sale in his books, and had received nothing on account. Defendant took the machine away one day when he was out.

Defendant—Did I not pay you \$17 on account?—No.

At No. 2 Police Station did you not actually acknowledge in the presence of the Inspector that you received \$17?—That was on account of a mess account.

Lok Hoi, a partner of the plaintiff, was then called.

His Lordship—What do you know about this?

Witness—The machine belonged to the owner, and he hired it out to defendant at \$1 a month.

His Lordship—We are getting a fresh story altogether now. Very well.

Witness—I lately defendant arranged with plaintiff to buy it, and it was agreed that it should be sold to him for \$20. I was present when defendant took it away but he did not make payment.

His Lordship—Was the plaintiff there?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—But plaintiff says he was not there.

Witness—Oh! He was not present, my Lord.

Defendant was then put in the box and said he bought the machine from plaintiff for \$20. He paid \$17 on account, leaving a balance of \$3 due.

His Lordship—Why don't you pay that?

Defendant—I told plaintiff I had no money, but said I would do some work for him, and worked the \$3 out.

His Lordship—You will have to pay the \$3. (To plaintiff)—It is no good coming up here with a story if you cannot find a witness to tell the same story as yourself. (To defendant)—The police charged you with larceny and took the machine, but what are they keeping it for now the charge is dismissed?

Defendant—I was not taken up to the Police Court. There was no charge against me.

His Lordship—No, but the plaintiff was told to come here. I will have the machine brought down, and if you pay \$3 into Court you can take it away, and the plaintiff can take the money out.

Monday, August 27th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE WONG KA-CHUEN ISSUE.

A motion for leave to appeal to the Privy Council was submitted by Mr. H. G. Calthrop (who was instructed by Mr. Brutton, of Messrs. Brutton and Hett). This was another stage in the litigation following the Lai Hing bankruptcy to decide whether Wong Ka-chuen was a partner at the time of the bankruptcy. His interests were watched by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding.

On 7th April, 1905, a petition in bankruptcy was filed by Ma Lung-po, the creditor petitioning the Court that a receiving order be made in respect of the estate of the Lai Hing firm, bankers and gold dealers, of 83, Bonham Strand, and on the 20th April the receiving order was made. Later, in the same year on the 24th November, an issue was ordered to be tried to determine whether Wong Ka-chuen was at the date of the petition a partner in the firm. The trial of the issue took place in April. The jury found that Wong Ka-chuen was not a partner at the date of the presentation of the petition. On the 28th April notice of motion was filed asking for an order that that verdict be set aside and a new trial between the parties on the ground that the judge misdirected the jury, that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, and that new material evidence had since been forthcoming. That motion came before the Court on June 20th, 22nd, and 26th, and on July 4th the Court delivered judgment refusing the appellants' motion for an order.

The present motion had been before the Court on a previous occasion, when the Chief Justice wished certain affidavits put in. These having been filed, leave to appeal was granted.

Tuesday, August 28th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A CUSTOMS PAYMENT.

The Tung Wo Company, junk owners, sued Leung Tak-wan and the Tak Kee Company for \$39.46, being the balance of the amount of customs duties paid by the plaintiffs to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at the request and on the behalf of the defendant.

Mr. C. F. Dixon, from the office of Mr. John Hastings, appeared for the plaintiff, while defendants were unrepresented.

Judgment for plaintiff, with costs, was entered.

Wednesday, August 29th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR INJUNCTION.

Messrs. A. S. Watson and Co. sought an injunction against the Yuen Kwong Wo firm and the Yik Wo Cheung firm to restrain defendants from selling goods which were colourable imitations of those sold by plaintiffs. Plaintiffs

also asked for an account, for damages for the appointment of a receiver for the delivery of goods which were colourable imitations of plaintiff's goods, and for costs.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding), appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. H. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. John Hastings for first defendant and Mr. d'Almada e Castro for the second defendant, appeared for defendants.

Mr. Slade, in opening, said that Messrs. Watson and Company had for some time past dealt among other things in peppermint oil and had been in the habit of making up their peppermint oil which they sold to Chinese in packets of one dozen each with a white label bearing Chinese characters and the number 157 in the corner. The translation of those characters, shortly stated, gave a description of the oil with instructions for its use, and stated that it was Watson's. It came to plaintiffs' knowledge that certain bottles of oil called peppermint oil were being sold by the first defendant in packets precisely similar in shape and general outward appearance. Those packets contained one dozen of bottles, bore labels which were word for word the same as Watson's, with the exception that instead of the characters representing Watson there were characters representing Johnson.

Mr. Calthrop—My Lord, there is no evidence on the affidavit that this represents a European name.

The Chief Justice—No.

Mr. Slade added that the only other exception was that instead of 157 the defendants' package bore the number 158. The packets were also wrapped up in similar paper, and each bore across the top a label printed in red. The general appearance of the bottles was so alike that any person having seen one would readily mistake it for the other.

The Chief Justice—Are the trade marks registered?

Mr. Slade—Ours are registered. Counsel then proceeded to indicate the differences between the respective bottles and argued that certain characters were placed on defendants' packages in order to make them as similar as possible to plaintiffs'. Not only did the packages bear so close a resemblance that they were calculated to deceive but the plaintiffs' oil was purer than that of defendants'.

Mr. Calthrop—There is no evidence.

Mr. Slade—At any rate it is not pure oil. Proceeding, he said that defendants sold the oil.

Mr. Calthrop—We only acted as agents.

Mr. Slade said the first defendant admitted having the oil in his possession and sold it. With regard to the second defendant, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, who had noted that there had been a falling off of \$14,000 in their sales during the last three years, received certain information from the first defendant. That had been filed and he would read from it. On that information the second defendant was joined to the suit and an application for an interim injunction was sought. Mr. Slade contended that there was sufficient evidence to continue the interim injunction already granted until the trial of the action. They were entitled to restrain the defendants from putting those goods on the market.

The Chief Justice—I will hear you, Mr. Calthrop.

Mr. Calthrop—I appear for both defendants.

The Chief Justice—It looks as if there is conflict between the two cases.

Mr. Calthrop—Between the two interests?

The Chief Justice—Yes. It looks as if your first defendant was the agent for the second.

Mr. Calthrop—Yes, we quite admit that.

The Chief Justice—How can you resist the injunction?

Mr. Calthrop pointed out that defendants sold so little of the oil, about \$300 worth during the last fifteen months, that it was a great hardship to put them to all that expense. The oil was manufactured in Canton, where the Court had no jurisdiction. He further submitted that there was no evidence to show that the ultimate purchaser would be deceived.

The Chief Justice—If everybody read all that on the purchase before they bought it there would be no deceit at all. It is the people who don't read that have to be protected.

Mr. Calthrop said that the purchaser could see the differences at the outset.

The Chief Justice—If everybody went about with a microscope when buying peppermint oil they might detect it.

Mr. Calthrop contended that there must be independent evidence that the articles were calculated to deceive. He quoted cases in support of his argument, and remarked that although two months had elapsed since the plaintiffs had received the analyst's report they had not brought forward any of the purchaser class who had been deceived. There was no attempt at deception.

The Chief Justice—You don't distinguish between the two defendants at present?

Mr. Calthrop—The first defendant sold about \$200 worth of oil packed up in this particular way. It was transmitted to him by the second defendant who received it from Canton and simply acted as carrier.

The Chief Justice—That should make your position very easy. You are not manufacturers. You are merely agents.

Mr. Calthrop—We say we have done nothing wrong.

The Chief Justice—You don't say you are not to be prevented from selling this stuff because you are innocent persons?

Mr. Calthrop—No, no. What I have been arguing is that there is no evidence.

The Chief Justice said he could not assume that Chinamen were different to other people. If they were they would not have taken all that trouble to copy almost every single detail of the bottles. It was about as clear a case of copying as he had come across. Whether that would be sufficient to entitle plaintiffs to judgment when the case came to trial he did not know, but there was no doubt that there was a case for an interim injunction. He was a little puzzled as to whether it was worth while to carry on the expense of continuing the receiver. A good deal would depend on what the books revealed.

After discussion defendants undertook to give up all books relating to the purchase and sale of the oil, and his Lordship made an order that the receiver should continue for a week and report in chambers.

Thursday, August 30th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The Yee Shun Wa firm sued the Tak Shing Lung firm and Leung Tak, its managing partner, for the recovery of \$5,177.21, loss sustained by reason of breach of contract.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, acted for defendants.

The statement of claim set forth that both parties carried on business in Hongkong, and that the plaintiffs had a branch at Newchwang. On March 5, 1906, defendants entered into a contract to supply the plaintiffs with sixty packages of best hand picked, No 1, blue ribbon hemp gunny bags, 200 bags in each package, for \$22.20 per hundred bags, or a total of 12,000 gunny bags for \$2,667.53 (including certain customary charges). It was further agreed that the defendant should deliver the bags to the Yee Tye Chan firm, forwarding agents, for shipment to Newchwang. On the same day the defendants sent the packages to the Yee Tye Chan firm and plaintiffs paid the money due. On opening the packages at Newchwang it was found that the bags were of a different and inferior description and plaintiffs declined to accept them, re-shipping them back to Hongkong and calling upon defendants to receive them. By reason of the breach of the contract plaintiffs had suffered damage and claimed (1) the return of the money paid, \$2,667.53; (2) difference between contract price of the bags and market price, \$1,619.42; and general expenses, warehousing, etc., \$890.26; a total of \$5,177.21.

In reply the defendants denied entering into a contract with the plaintiffs on March 6, but stated that a contract was made between them on February 24th for the supply of 10,000 good

hand picked No. 1, blue ribbon hemp gunny bags, for \$2,667.53. On March 5 the packages were made up under the supervision of the plaintiffs, who accepted them in fulfilment of the contract. The packages were not delivered by defendants to the Yee Tye Chan firm, but to plaintiffs. The defendants received \$2,400 on account, but neglected and refused to pay the balance and an action in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Court was instituted to recover the amount, judgment being given for the plaintiff and the money was paid. The plaintiffs did not inform defendants that they declined to accept the packages, nor had the said packages been re-shipped to Hongkong. In May and July sixty packages, alleged by the plaintiffs to be those delivered by the defendants, were shipped from Newchwang to Hongkong and afterwards sold by auction by the plaintiffs, realising \$1,048.11.

Mr. Calthrop, in the course of his opening statement, said that an action was brought by the defendants for a small sum in the Summary Court. On that action judgment was given against his clients, who paid the money into court to abide the decision of the higher Court with regard to the counter claim. After his clients commenced that action in Original Jurisdiction the defendants took the money out of Court. His clients' claim was for very much more than the claim against them and could not have been tried by Mr. Justice Wis. Counsel argued that submitting to judgment in one action did not debar him from bringing another action in another Court.

After hearing evidence, the case was adjourned.

LICENSING COURT.

A meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on the 28th August. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz presided and there were also present—Messrs. F. J. Badeley, J. R. Wood, P. P. J. Wodehouse, E. Mast, C. D. Melbourne, H. R. J. Craig and Captain Lyons.

The business was to consider an application from George Green for permission to remove the business now carried on by him under a publican's licence on premises No. 21 Pottinger Street under the sign of "The Criterion Hotel," to premises No. 98-100, Queen's Road Central.

Mr. M. W. Slade appeared for the applicant, and Mr. S. W. Tso opposed the application on behalf of the masters of sixteen Chinese shops in the vicinity.

Mr. Tso read a petition he forwarded his Worship yesterday, which was signed by members of the sixteen firms he represented, and stated that there were already two public houses in the neighbourhood and an addition to that number in the locality would greatly injure their businesses and disturb the peace of the neighbourhood in the evening by increasing disorder and drunkenness which keener competition would eventually cause. The petition concluded by setting forth that a new public-house was wholly unnecessary, and would prove a nuisance rather than a benefit to the neighbourhood.

Mr. Tso said the objection of the petitioners to any more public-houses in the vicinity was the probable increase of drunkenness and in the number of disorderly persons frequenting the locality. The merchants around generally carried on business in the evenings as well as through the day, and that business would be greatly injured if the number of disorderly persons in the vicinity increased, and the hotels were kept open till twelve or one o'clock.

Mr. Badeley—What did you say, that the public-house would keep open till one o'clock? They close at 12 midnight.

Mr. Tso—But they would have the piano going at one o'clock. The hotel might close at twelve, but the visitors would be noisy for some time afterwards. I would ask the Justices to consider their (the petitioners) business and interests, and whether this public-house is necessary in addition to those already existing.

Mr. Gompertz—I understand there is no police objection?

Mr. Badeley—No. It does not matter to me whether the hotels are in one place or another as long as there are not too many of them, but

in this case the neighbours all object, and as this is rather a small meeting I think this matter should be considered at the annual sessions.

Mr. Gompertz—You think we should wait for a fuller meeting?

Mr. Badeley—Yes.

Captain Lyons—Especially where all the members present but one are government officials.

Mr. Badeley proposed, and Captain Lyons seconded, that the application be adjourned until the annual sessions in September.

Mr. Slade, who was instructed by the applicant, then appeared. He said the premises were only being moved a matter of about 150 yards, and he was not aware there was going to be any opposition only from other publicans.

Mr. Gompertz (to Mr. Tso)—Are you appearing for any of the other publicans?

Mr. Tso—No, I am appearing for shopkeepers.

Mr. Slade—Yes; but it is the other publicans I should imagine who are really instructing Mr. Tso.

Continuing, Mr. Slade said the position was that the Criterion Hotel had been carried on for many years in Pottinger Street. At one time Pottinger Street was a respectable street. The New Victoria Hotel was there, and a good class of Chinese shopkeepers resided there. Now there was only a very low class of Chinese and nobody else. The building in which the hotel business was carried on was hardly fit for a European habitation. There were recently two cases of plague in it, and this year the wife of the applicant contracted the disease and was removed to hospital. She suffered very severely and was still suffering from having to carry on the business with her husband. The application was to remove from these poor premises to more suitable premises in Queen's Road, where most of the other public-houses were, and where his business could be carried on far more decently. It would be easier for the police to superintend the premises in Queen's Road, which were more open, and from the point of view of the public it would be an advantage. As for the business doing harm to the neighbours, in Queen's Road West, where there were far more hotels, the rents of the Chinese shops in the vicinity were exceedingly high. The mere fact of opening an hotel there brought a certain amount of traffic and benefit to the shopkeepers. There were grounds for the granting of the application which should outweigh the petition of the shopkeepers. The reason the applicant wanted to move was merely a question of health.

Mr. Gompertz—If the Justices refuse this application, that will not debar your client from applying to remove to other premises.

Mr. Slade—That is so, but it is difficult to find suitable premises, such as those stated in the application. A large number of public-houses are being carried on in Queen's Road without objections from neighbours, and why should this individual's application be objected to? I have no doubt the proprietor of the Stag Hotel is at the bottom of this. I put it forward as an inference. He is the man who has caused this objection to be raised among these Chinese. The applicant is a thoroughly deserving man who wants to move into good premises, and premises in every way suitable for his business, and I would ask the Justices to be slow in refusing the application.

Mr. Badeley said if the application were granted now, when the annual sessions were held three-fourths of the Justices might be dead against it. It had been a policy of the Justices for many years not to allow more public-houses to be opened in the eastern part of Queen's Road.

Mr. Mast said that under the circumstances he would say "live and let live," and moved that the application be granted. There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Badeley's motion was then put to the meeting and carried, so that the application will be again considered at the annual licensing sessions.

The Free Press called the attention of the Singapore police to our Canton correspondent's suggestion that some of the West River pirates had left for that port.

FRUITS OF THE COMMISSION.

INSPECTOR WARD COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

The hearing of the charges of bribery and attempting to obstruct the course of justice, preferred against Inspector Francis Ward, of the Sanitary Department, was concluded before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on August 27th.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for defendant.

Mr. A. Carter, Sanitary Surveyor, was called. He said—On March 1st, 1904, defendant was appointed as a district sanitary inspector, and was placed in charge of No. 5 district.

Chan Pui, sworn, said—I live at No. 2, Water Street, which is my family house. I am the owner and lessee of several latrines in Hongkong. One is at No. 3, Sau To Lane, one at 29, First Street and one at 2, Gough Street. My son, Chan Tsun, manages these latrines. Account books with regard to them are kept by my son, who also receives the money from the collectors. He likewise sees that the limewashing or repairing of the latrines is carried out. On June 22nd I was summoned to attend the Commission and take my books. This (produced) was the subpoena served on me by a European sergeant. My son was not in the house at the time. After I was served I went to the Detective Office with my books, and afterwards to the Commission. I have no partners in the latrine business. I and my son are the only two persons interested in it. I know the defendant, who is a sanitary inspector. He called at my house on June 23rd at about 7 p.m. Prior to that time I had seen him passing my door. When he called, a man surnamed Wong came with him. They both entered and sat down. The defendant spoke in English, and Wong acted as interpreter. No one else was present. The interpreter interpreting for defendant said—"Tell your son to go to the country, then there will be no trouble. I will look after your latrines." Wong then said—"It is written in the book that money has been given to the inspector (defendant)." That was the reason they wanted my son to go away. When they were going away the defendant shook hands with me and said "Chin-chin." He also said, in Chinese—"If your son goes away I will look after your latrines." I said in reply—"Yes, please you look after me."

Mr. Bowley—Were you pleased at the suggestion that your son should go away to the country?

Mr. Grist—His impressions are not evidence, your Worship, one way or the other.

Mr. Bowley—Were you willing that your son should go away?

Mr. Grist again objected.

Mr. Bowley—I submit it is evidence, your Worship.

His Worship allowed the question.

Witness—No.

Mr. Bowley—Did you send him away to the country?

Witness—No.

Continuing, witness said—I saw defendant on June 25th at the latrine in Sau Po Lane. I was sent for by Lo Long-hing, the person in charge of that latrine. This was about 9 a.m., and I was then in my house, which is next door to the latrine. I met the defendant at the entrance to the lane. He was alone. He spoke to me in Chinese and said—"Your son has not yet gone away. Send him away." I replied—"They have not yet asked me. When they do ask me I will see about it." I did not send my son away, and defendant did not speak to me again. I gave evidence before the Commission on July 2nd.

Lo Long-hing, declared, said—I am in charge of Chan Pui's latrine at No. 2 Sau Po Lane. I was first employed by Chan Pui in June, 1906, and have been there ever since. Defendant is the latrine inspector. He called to inspect sometimes once every day, and sometimes once in two or three days. At times he called by himself and again he would have an interpreter with him. He told me once to call my master. On June 25th, after inspecting the latrine, he asked me where the master was. I said—"My master is at his

family house." He asked me to go in and tell him to come out, which I did. My master came and spoke to the defendant at the entrance to the lane. I did not hear what was said. On this occasion defendant spoke to me in Chinese. I do not understand English, and have been in the Colony only three or four months.

Chief Detective-Inspector J. W. Hanson said—I arrested defendant under the warrant produced on the 15th instant at No. 1, Chater Street. I know the branch office of the Sanitary Board on Pokfulam Road, and the defendant's house. In going from the office to his house the defendant would pass within about twenty paces of Chan Pui's door.

This ended the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Grist—I propose to reserve my defence and address your Worship very shortly principally with reference to the sixth charge. Apart from all the questions of fact in the matter, that is no offence against the Common Law, nor is it an offence against any of the Ordinances. That being so, I should ask that that charge, at any rate, be dismissed.

Mr. Bowley—I submit that the charge is good in law. It is an offence against the Common Law to prevent witnesses attending to give evidence before a duly constituted tribunal. The Royal Commission was appointed by the Governor to enquire into the workings of the sanitary ordinances, and has all the powers and status of a court of justice.

His Worship, after referring to the authority quoted said he thought the offence would be "to incite a person to conspire with the defendant to pervert justice." He thought that would be a common law offence.

Mr. Grist—It would be if the Commission was not a private one, but being so it is a misconception entirely.

His Worship—On that point the evidence is *prima facie*, and it is quite sufficient for me to send the case for trial.

Mr. Grist—I only put it forward to give my friend full notice. There is no question of perverting justice. The Commission is simply drawing up a confidential report not to be published.

His Worship—It is a common law offence to pervert justice; also a common law offence to incite another person to conspire with another person to pervert justice.

Defendant was committed for trial at the next Criminal Sessions. Bail as before.

THE CHARGES AGAINST INSPECTOR
H. J. W. GIDLEY.

The hearing of the charges of bribery preferred against Inspector Hubert J. W. Gidley of the Sanitary Department was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on August 29th. The charges were that the defendant did on November 6th, 1905, unlawfully accept from Chak Hok-king a bribe of \$250 with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant in relation to an inspection of the ground surfaces of 136 to 148 Queen's Road West, Nos. 3 and 5 Queen's Road West and Nos. 8 and 10 Bonham Strand West; that on December 29th, 1905, the defendant did accept a bribe of \$50 with reference to the ground surfaces of No. 177 Winglok Street and No. 13 Bonham Strand West.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Mr. Bowley, in outlining the case, said the defendant had held the office of a sanitary inspector for some five years, and of recent years he had been one of the plague inspectors. Plague inspectors were separated from the ordinary district inspectors, and each of them had two health districts under his charge for the purposes of plague cases. The alleged bribes were said to have been given in November and December respectively, a time when it is believed there were no plague cases in the Colony. During the winter season plague inspectors were engaged in a general disinfection and cleansing of premises within their districts, and amongst the other duties which the defendant had to discharge about that time was one of inspecting ground surfaces. His Worship was no doubt aware that under section 111 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance it was

laid down that ground surfaces of any domestic building should be properly covered over with a layer of not less than six inches of good lime or cement concrete. Section 112 required the owner of any domestic building to keep the ground surfaces in repair, and if it became damaged in any way to make it good. During the months of November and December the defendant inspected a very large number of ground surfaces within his district, which comprised a considerable part of Queen's Road West, and he thought the whole of Bonham Strand West. Before inspecting, that was to say, examining critically, the ground surface of any house, the inspector obtained a sort of warrant from either the secretary of the Sanitary Board or the Medical Officer of Health. That was under No. 1 of the bye-laws in the schedule of the Ordinances, which stated that the secretary of the Board should furnish inspectors with a general authority in writing, in English and Chinese, to enter buildings and examine them. The defendant obtained a number of warrants from the Medical Officer of Health at different times during these months, and Mr. Bowley would call before his Worship a witness whose name appeared in the charges as Chak Hok-king, but who was better known by his shop name of Lik Kee. He was a contractor, and would tell his Worship that some time in October a house owner or occupier showed him one of the notices already mentioned about concretizing. Seeing that this notice referred to the defendant, Lik Kee went to his quarters and saw him. They then mutually recognised the fact that they had both been at Queen's College at the same time, and some friendly conversation ensued. Then the contractor told the defendant he wanted some jobs in connection with sanitary work, and the defendant promised the contractor that he would get jobs for him, and told the contractor that he must remember him.

Mr. Wilkinson—If this witness has given any evidence before the Commission I should be supplied with a copy. It is only fair that I should have a copy.

Mr. Bowley—This case has nothing whatever to do with anything that came before the Commission.

Mr. Wilkinson—I would ask your Worship to direct the Crown Solicitor to furnish me with a copy of that evidence.

His Worship—I think you had better apply to the Government.

Mr. Bowley—This case has nothing to do with the Commission. I am not going to refer to any evidence given before the Commission.

His Worship—If you can get it from the Crown well and good, but I don't see how you can ask me to make an order.

Mr. Bowley—I am conducting this case in the ordinary way without reference to the Commission, and I am afraid I cannot assist my friend in any way.

Continuing, Mr. Bowley said that this contractor, Lik Kee, made an appointment with the defendant to meet him at the house at Hollywood Road and inspect the ground surface with the result that the defendant condemned the ground surface, and obtained the necessary authority from the Board to have it concreted, and Lik Kee got the job. That was the commencement of the renewal of their acquaintanceship. After that, the contractor would tell his Worship that he from time to time obtained information in advance from the Sanitary Office as to what floors were going to be inspected, and acting on that information he employed a broker to go round to different shops, mostly large Chinese hongs, and to solicit orders in advance for Yik Kee.

His Worship—On the strength of the information he got from the Board?

Mr. Bowley—On the strength of the information he got from the Sanitary branch office.

Mr. Bowley, continuing, said the notices were served at the offices of the owner, who is the master of a very well-known and old established firm known as the Yuen Fat hong, which carried on business at Queen's Road West and Bonham Strand West. When these notices of intention to inspect the ground surfaces were served on the Yuen Fat people they became rather excited and annoyed, and if there was one thing a Chinaman disliked more than another it was to have his shop turned out and the ground surfaces taken up and relaid. Then

came the broker asking them to go to Lik Kee. They sent to him and told him the notices had been served (he was already aware of the fact that they were going to be served), and he would tell his Worship he went to see the defendant in his quarters, had a conversation with him, and asked him if he could not pass the floors for the Yuen Fat hong. Defendant said he would do it if he received \$25 for each house; there were eleven houses altogether. Defendant arranged with Lik Kee to go and see the houses on the following day, and on November 6th, 1905, the Yuen Fat hong sent \$250 to Lik Kee's shop. It was handed to Lik Kee, who would tell his Worship that he went with the inspector to see the inspection made; that after it had been made he went with the inspector to his quarters with the notices which had been served, and that he asked the inspector to write on the notices a sort of certificate to the effect that the concrete had been examined and was good. Defendant wrote such a certificate on the two papers, and Lik Kee paid him \$250, out of which he gave Yik \$50 for his trouble, and returned the papers to the Yuen Fat hong where they remained until the present investigations commenced. A similar notice was served on the Yuen Fat hong towards the end of December with respect to their godown, which was opposite the shop, and occupied 13 Bonham Strand West and 177 Winglok Street. The same sort of transaction was gone through. Defendant received \$50 and returned \$10 to Lik Kee, who returned the papers to the Yuen Fat hong. On April 25th this year, the defendant in the course of his duties had occasion to visit 177 Winglok Street again, and after this visit he reported to the secretary of the Sanitary Board that the concrete surface was broken, and advised that action should be taken to repair it. Last year, when this money was paid, the plague inspectors were entrusted with the duty of inspecting concrete, and getting it made good if necessary, but in April of this year, in consequence of a number of complaints made, the Board directed that in future Mr. Carter, sanitary surveyor, should take part of the concrete works. For this case in April the defendant's report passed through Mr. Carter, who inspected the ground surface of 177 Winglok Street. On his inspection the Board issued a notice to the owner to re-concrete the ground surface. Shortly afterwards, the Yuen Fat hong wrote into the secretary asking that they might be exempted from complying with the notice, and on subsequent inquiries being made they gave information about these payments and the present proceedings were instituted.

Dr. W. W. Pearse, Medical Officer of Health, said the defendant was a plague inspector, and last year he was in charge of districts 7 and 8. His quarters were at the disinfectant station, Taipingshan. In the autumn and winter last year witness gave the defendant an authority to examine the concrete of a great many houses. It was his duty before inspecting a surface to obtain a written authority from witness or the secretary of the Board. The form produced addressed to Mr. Ko Pak-shun, of Nos. 3 and 5 Queen's Road West, was signed by witness, who also signed similar forms for other houses. The notices were issued under bye-law No. 1 of the entry and inspection of buildings bye-laws. All the premises mentioned in the notices were in No. 8 health district. Having attained the necessary authority the defendant's next duty would be to serve the notice on the owner. Then he might consult the owner regarding the time of inspection. After 48 hours elapse from the time of serving the notice it was the duty of the inspector to make an inspection by opening the ground surface and examining the concrete. If an inspector wished to examine a floor he could call an outside contractor to open it up. Witness understood the sanitary department paid expenses. There was no set of regulations controlling the examination of concrete in the department. If the concrete was good the hole should be filled up by the Board; if it was bad the inspector's next step would be to report to the Board, and a notice would be forwarded requiring the concrete to be made good. The defendant had no authority to write such certificates as the one he put on the notices produced. He did not remember ever

having seen a similar certificate, but such notices were the property of those on whom they were served, therefore it was not likely he would ever come across any.

Cross-examined—If witness were a property owner he should expect some sort of certificate from the inspector to show that the work was done. Sometimes witness directed the inspectors, and sometimes the inspectors suggested to him the houses to be examined. At the end of last plague season witness made up his mind to have the concrete examined in a very large number of houses in the Colony. He did not give directions as to the actual manner in which floors should be opened up, but the inspector should open them if he had an authority. So far as witness knew it was not suggested that defendant did not open up the premises. Since the inquiry witness had heard it suggested that the concrete in the houses in question had been improperly passed. Except for these proceedings, the doctor would say that defendant bore an excellent character.

Re-examined—Witness could not say whether he initiated the examination of the houses in question before defendant had the forms made out. No notice and no warrant would be required to make a surface examination.

Chung Yau-shak, declared, said he was chief accountant of the Yuen Fat hong, which firm occupied Nos. 8 and 10 Bonham Strand and Nos. 3 and 5 Queen's Road West, which houses communicated with each other. The front part of No. 3 Queen's Road West was sub-let. The Yuen Fat also used Nos. 30 Bonham Strand and 177 Winglok Street as a godown. The Yuen Fat hong had been established for nearly fifty years, and the present master was named Ko Kai-shun, who was also the owner of Nos. 136 to 148 Queen's Road West. Witness kept accounts for the master in respect of these houses. If a payment was made in connection therewith he would enter it under the name Sing Kee, one of his master's names. He made a payment of \$250 last year which was entered in his book. The money was paid on November 6th, so that the firm would not have to repair certain concreting.

Mr. Wilkinson objected to this statement, saying it was not evidence against his client unless it was payment made to his client.

Mr. Bowley agreed that the statement should be struck out of the evidence.

Witness, continuing, said the two notices (produced) were taken to him by a sanitary inspector two or three days before the money was paid. He received them personally, but could not remember the inspector who gave them to him. The paper produced, which was given him by an interpreter, bore the name of Lik Kee, contractor. Prior to this he had not heard of Lik Kee. Having consulted his master regarding notices, he sent a foki to Lik Kee, who sent a broker to see him. After that he gave \$250, in Hongkong and Shanghai bank notes, to Kwok Wing-kin, the bill and rent collector of the Yuen Fat hong. Kwok took the money away. He remembered a sanitary inspector examining the floor of the hong after the money was paid, but could not identify defendant. Workmen attended with the inspector when he made the examination. Tiles were taken up, but no concrete. Witness subsequently received a notice referring to 177 Winglok Street, and paid Kwok \$50. It was paid on account of Sing Kee. An inspection was made of the house after he paid the money. He did not get a receipt for the \$250. It was his custom to get receipts when he paid money, but in this case it couldn't be done. In addition to these two he did not make any other payment for the work of inspecting the floors.

Cross-examined—Witness was present when the inspector inspected the floors of the shop. He was in the accountant's room and saw the tiles being taken up. He did not object. Since he had been in the shop, about five years, the floor had always been in very good condition.

The case was adjourned.

The case in which Hubert J. W. Gidley, sanitary inspector, was charged on two counts with bribery, was resumed before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on August 30th.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs.

Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Kwok Wing-kin was the next witness. He said he was the bill and rent collector of the Yuen Fat hong, and had been employed there for 32 years. He collected rents for Sing Kee, whose personal name was Ko Kai-shun. Ko Kai-shun was the owner of Nos. 8 and 10 Bonham Strand West, 3 and 5 Queen's Road West; 136 to 148 Queen's Road West, also No. 13 Bonham Strand West and 177 Winglok Street. On November 6th last year he made a payment of \$250. The money was given him in the accountant's room by the last witness, in bank notes. He took it to Lik Kee. A man surnamed Mok accompanied him. Lik Kee's was in East Street, Taipingshan. When witness arrived there he saw the manager, Chak Hok-king, to whom he handed the money. Besides the money he had a notice which was served on his firm by the Sanitary Board. This he also handed to the manager. Witness asked for a receipt for the money, but Chak Hok-king refused to give one.

Cross-examined—He did not know Lik Kee before, neither had he heard of his business. He knew where to take the money by a small piece of paper. The Yuen Fat hong had always been in the same premises, and he had frequently witnessed repairs going on. About this time last year the premises were in a good state of repair. He had seen the concrete laid down, and saw that it was very good. When he paid the money to Lik Kee the manager of the shop and the man Mok, who took him there, were present. He had seen Mok before. When he called Lik Kee before the payment, Lik Kee sent Mok. On the day following his call of Lik Kee he went and paid the money. Mok was a rice and sugar broker, and had nothing to do with repairing houses. Lik Kee, did not tell witness he was going to send Mok to the Yuen Fat hong. Witness was not present when Mok called, but when he went to Lik Kee Mok, who was in the shop, asked to go with him. When he paid the money at Lik Kee's he left Mok behind. He was not told by his foki to ask for a receipt, but always endeavoured to get one when paying money. On this occasion he was told there was no necessity for a receipt as the paper was signed.

Re-examined—The paper which Lik Kee said was signed was one of the notices.

Mr. Bowley—I think you said there was a piece of paper bearing Chinese characters attached to the notice?

Mr. Wilkinson—I object to the question. The man makes a statement entirely on hearsay. Your Worship cannot take that down. I would ask your Worship to strike it out. It is not evidence.

His Worship—I don't see how I can do that.

Mr. Wilkinson—The witness was not present when the paper was handed in, and he cannot give evidence as to where it came from.

Mr. Bowley (to witness)—Did you see the small piece of paper to which you referred in cross-examination?

Mr. Wilkinson—I object to the question.

His Worship allowed it, but made a note of Mr. Wilkinson's objection.

Witness—Yes.

Continuing, witness said he saw the paper pasted on the wall of the accountant's room in the Yuen Fat hong. The first time he saw the man Chak was when he called on him in November. He met Mok, on the morning when he went to the Lik Kee, in his (witness) shop. He could not remember when the concrete and tiles in 10 Bonham Strand were taken up and relaid.

Chak Hok-king, declared, said he was a contractor and his shop name was Lik Kee. He was born in Hongkong, and had been to school at Queen's College for four or five years. He first saw defendant at Queen's College, then lost sight of him till last year. Witness' father died about eleven or twelve years ago, then he took over the business.

Mr. Bowley—Where did you meet the defendant last year?

Mr. Wilkinson—I object to my friend leading this witness in any way. I don't mind some of them, but not this one.

Mr. Bowley—I am not leading him. The witness said distinctly he saw him again last year.

Continuing, witness said he saw defendant at the end of the 9th moon last year. A friend asked him to lay some concrete and handed him a piece of paper, and he went to see the inspector about it. When he got to the branch office he saw defendant and said—"I wish you to go to 240 Hollywood Road and inspect some concrete." Defendant looked at the paper, then looked at witness after which he said he would go in the afternoon about 2.30 p.m. He then said—"It seems to me you are familiar to me." I said—"Yes, I recognise you. When you were at school with your brother I was a schoolmate as well." Defendant asked witness if he was a building contractor and witness replied that he was. He said—"Would you like to do some concrete work?" Witness said he would. Defendant said—"Afterwards, when I send out paper for concrete purposes I will inform you. But you must remember me." Witness replied—"That goes without saying." Defendant then told him to wait for him at No. 240, and he waited until the inspector returned. The conversation was conducted first in English but afterwards in Chinese. Defendant understood Chinese very well. This conversation took place in the public office. When defendant arrived at the house at Hollywood Road he examined the concrete and said it had to be relaid. Witness relaid it. After this witness went occasionally to defendant's office and asked him for work. Sometimes he would be told of a number of houses where work was to be done. He got other jobs from defendant, one being the concreting of floors of two houses a little further down Hollywood Road. He got other jobs in Lascar Row and Des Voeux Road West. The houses in Des Voeux Road West had to be re-concreted. He relaid the floors. Exemption was granted in the case of certain houses in Queen's Road West. Witness knew the broker Mok, who got business for him. When witness became friendly with defendant he took Mok to him. Defendant saw him, and witness told defendant he was busy in the day time. His friend was a broker, and defendant could give him information. Defendant said "All right." Some times the numbers of houses were sent to witness, who would give them to Mok, and Mok would tell him who were the owners. Mok was a rice broker. The slip of paper produced had his name and address on it. Mok distributed similar bits of paper. On a certain day in November a man from the Yuen Fat hong called on him. He did not go to the hong, but asked Mok, who was sitting there, to go. Mok went. Later he returned bringing two notices. After a conversation with Mok he took the paper to the defendant at his house. He saw defendant. No one else was present. Witness said to the inspector—"The owner of these houses asks you to exempt them from being re-concreted. The owner will give you a present." Defendant said—"If he desires that no concrete be laid I will do it as before, \$25 a house. I will go and look at them to-morrow." Defendant then gave witness the paper and he said he would inform the owner. When the inspector said "the same as before" he referred to two houses in Des Voeux Road, Nos. 119 and 121. The owner asked to be exempted from re-concreting the houses. Witness showed defendant the papers, and defendant said—"If concrete is not to be laid, \$25 each house." Witness said he would go and speak to the owners, and defendant said he would inspect the premises in the afternoon. After an inspection of the premises defendant said—"All right. Can do," and witness paid him \$50. He returned witness \$10. The first money he paid defendant, \$250, was handed to him by the last witness. When he received it he went to see the inspector at the office, and said the owner of the premises in question had sent him the thing. Later the inspector met witness and his foki at the houses in Queen's Road West, near the Civil Hospital, and inspected them. The inspection was made by the floor being thumped to hear the sound. On leaving these houses they went and examined others in Possession Street, Queen's Road West and Bonham Strand West. When they entered the Yuen Fat hong shop a hole was dug in the floor. He saw the concrete, and considered it of ordinary quality. The defendant said it was soft. After leaving the Yuen Fat hong-witness asked defendant which of the houses inspected were good and which were

not. Defendant said they were all good, and told witness to call at his house about one o'clock. He called as requested and saw defendant in his bedroom. Taking out of his pocket the notices before the Court, he handed the defendant \$250, and defendant returned him \$50. Witness told defendant to sign the papers, or the Chinese would not believe him. Defendant signed there and then. Witness asked the inspector to inspect 8 and 10 Bonham Strand West, and he agreed. Including these numbers there were eleven houses inspected. After the inspector had written on the papers he handed them to witness, who in turn handed them to Mok and he took them away.

Remanded.

The hearing of the charges of bribery preferred against Inspector Hubert J. W. Gidley of the Sanitary Board was continued. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Chak Hok-king was further examined. He said the notice produced was signed by defendant. It was first handed to him by Mok in witness' shop last year. After Mok gave him the paper he took it and showed it to the inspector. He saw defendant at his house and told him he was the owner of \$250 if he would exempt an owner from concreting his house. The inspector looked at the notice and said all right; he said he would go and inspect the house on the following day. Witness saw him inspect it. His coolie was also present. He could not remember whether any hole was dug in the floor. After the inspection witness asked defendant whether the floor was satisfactory, and defendant said it would do. At lunch time witness went to the inspector's house and handed him \$50. No one else was present. The \$50 was given him by Mok. The inspector on receiving the money gave witness \$10. Witness pointed out to the Court what he saw the inspector write on the notice. It read—"Examined and found good. H. J. W. Gidley. 29/12/05 and 13 Bonham Strand West." This was written immediately after witness made the payment. Defendant first wrote it in pencil, and witness said—"It is in pencil. They won't believe me. It might come off." Defendant then wrote it in ink, and witness took the paper to his shop and handed it to Mok.

Cross-examined—Witness did not assist his father in the business until one or two years before his death. He had been in the business twelve or thirteen years, and left school when he was a man. There was not another contractor firm here by the name of Lik Kee. Since his father died he had made a little money. In the contract to pull down Lane, Crawford's old premises he spent more money than he had received. After the Yuen Fat hong affair he did not often go to see the defendant about more business. He had had no quarrel with him, and was aware that it was a criminal offence for defendant to accept bribes. Witness was not asked to give a receipt for the \$250.

Mr. Wilkinson—Are you aware that it is a criminal offence to induce a person to accept or offer bribes?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Bowley—I submit, your Worship, the witness is not bound to answer that question.

His Worship saw no objection to the question being answered.

Mr. Bowley—He need not answer the question. My friend is asking him to incriminate himself, and he is entitled to the protection of the Court.

His Worship—He is not bound to answer any question that will tend to incriminate him, but I don't see that the question asked will.

Mr. Wilkinson—This is really a waste of time. As a matter of fact the question is the gist of the whole thing.

Mr. Bowley—This man is not on his trial for offering a bribe and need not answer the question unless he likes.

Mr. Wilkinson—Whether he is aware or not, the fact remains that he is guilty.

Mr. Bowley—If he has admitted the fact, he is not bound to admit guilty knowledge of the fact.

His Worship—I don't see any ground for his refusing to answer the question.

Mr. Bowley—If he has incriminated himself, he is not bound to incriminate himself further.

His Worship—My opinion is that the answer to the question will not tend to incriminate him, but I will make a note of the objection.

Mr. Wilkinson (to witness)—Are you not afraid of being prosecuted?

Witness—No. It was advertised in the newspapers that we were to tell the truth, and we would get the protection of the Commission.

Continuing, witness said he had never been otherwise than on friendly terms with the defendant. He turned round now because the Government had found defendant out. Defendant had never refused to get witness work, and now he pitied the defendant. Last year he had been to see Inspector Lamble about three times. It would not be about fifty or sixty times. During the last three years he had been at the branch office on several occasions, but he could not remember when he saw defendant. Witness' shop was in the defendant's district, but he did not know how long defendant had been on the district. He could not say whether an inspector had been to inspect his premises once in two months. His premises were in East Street and the only other premises he represented were the Yuen Fat hong and those he mentioned yesterday.

Mr. Wilkinson—Have you ever negotiated with other owners to get bribes?

His Worship—He needn't answer that question. (To the interpreter)—Ask him if he wishes to answer that question.

Witness—No.

Continuing, witness said he did concreting for other owners than the Yuen Fat hong. He did work for eight or ten houses in Wanchai, but the work was very difficult to get. Sometimes his friends asked him to do it; they were the owners. When his friends were not owners, Mok got the business for him. So far as he knew Mok did not act as broker to other contractors. Mok endeavoured to ascertain whenever notices were sent to owners of houses by the Sanitary Board, and then he would try to get the work for witness. He allowed Mok a commission of \$2 on every house; sometimes a little more, sometimes less. On the occasion when defendant gave him \$50 he gave Mok \$10. When the \$250 was paid to him he took it to defendant's house. He first went to see defendant at the office, but Mok did not go with him. Mok was present when the money was paid to witness, and when he (witness) went to defendant he left Mok behind in the shop, where he found him when he returned. He called on the inspector at his office between 10 and 11 a.m. There were a number of Chinese present, but he could not say whether Inspector Lamble was there. The desk opposite defendant's in the office was occupied by a Chinese clerk. Witness always conversed with the defendant in Chinese. He kept an account book in connection with his business, but had no record in his books of the portions of the two bribes he had received. Witness had not gone round with other inspectors to watch them examining concrete. Only the premises he had already mentioned were found satisfactory by the inspector, so far as he knew. The \$250 from the Yuen Fat hong was taken to him before the defendant had inspected the premises. He told the man who handed it to him that the inspector had not inspected the premises. Witness had been to school for five or six years, and left when he was twenty-one years of age.

Re-examined—When witness left school he was in the same class as defendant's elder brother, who sat next him in the class. He was rebuilding part of Lane, Crawford's old premises, but the work was not finished yet. Before he saw the notice in the newspapers about the Commission he did not speak to anyone about defendant. He had his house limewashed twice a year. Mr. Lamble, and not defendant, looked after that.

Ko Chan-king, sworn, said he was a dealer in pre-erved fruits. His shop name was "un Tak-ng." In November last year he was occupying Nos. 138, 142, 144 and 156 Queen's Road West. A sanitary inspector then called and inspected the ground surfaces of the four houses. The inspector was accompanied by a Chinaman who carried a pick. A small hole about ten inches square was cut in the ground surfaces of two of the houses. The holes had since been repaired by his foki, but the Sanitary Board had not paid for them.

Cross-examined—Witness went to each of the houses with the inspector when he examined the floors. He saw the concrete laid, and it was very well laid.

Re-examined—That was about six or seven years ago.

Cheung Cho said he was a carpenter carrying on business at 148 Queen's Road West. He remembered a sanitary inspector calling to inspect the ground surface of his shop last year. The inspector did not dig a hole in the floor.

Cross-examined—Two or three men accompanied the inspector when he called at witness' premises. The inspector went all round the place and thumped the floor. Before and after this occasion he called several times to inspect.

Re-examined—There was not more than one thumping of the floor.

The case was adjourned.

REMARKABLE CHINESE STORY OF REAL LIFE.

Wong Chik-nam was charged at the instance of Inspector Collett with obtaining £20 by false pretences.

From the evidence it appeared that defendant was a friend of the complainant, an old man residing in the country. The complainant's son was in Victoria, British Columbia, but his wife resided with her father-in-law, on whom the defendant at a previous period was often calling. His acquaintance with the young wife ripened into improper intimacy, and it is believed that the woman was hand and glove with him in the scheme which ultimately led to his arrest. Some time ago the defendant bade the complainant farewell, telling him that he was going to America. About three months afterwards he returned, and handed complainant a forged letter purporting to be from his son, in which the son asked the father to send his wife, in the defendant's care, to him at Victoria. All unsuspecting the father proceeded to make arrangements for a speedy departure, and handed the defendant £20, which defendant told him would be required for the lady's passage. The father decided to accompany his daughter-in-law and the defendant to Hongkong, here to take leave of them. The trio gathered on the Winglok Street wharf, where defendant hailed a sampan to take them off to the American steamer. As the weather was somewhat boisterous, the father was prevailed upon not to accompany them to the vessel, and took his last farewell on the wharf. When the sampan pushed off the old man returned to his hotel, and returned by first steamer to the country. The occupants of the sampan, instead of making for the steamer, went for a sail round the harbour, eventually landing again at West Point. The defendant then sought a place of abode, and finding a suitable house in Elgin Street took it. He furnished it luxuriously after the Chinese fashion, supplied all the wants of his paramour and actually bought a share in a business with the complainant's money. Things went well with him for a time, but a genuine letter from the ill-used man in America to his father, stating that he would be returning home shortly, revealed to the father the mean trick which had been played upon him. He returned to Hongkong, put the matter in the hands of the police, the result being that the happy home which the defendant had built at the expense of others was broken up and the defendant arrested.

His Worship found Wong guilty of the charge, and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The *Singapore* publishes a telegram from Peking dated the 22nd inst. which is to the following effect:—Gendarmes belonging to the Board of Public Safety have arrested within the precincts of Eho Park Palace a man of suspicious appearance. Upon being searched the prisoner held in his hand a leather receptacle, inside of which was found a bomb. He stated that he was living in the Yuan Ho Timber Yard, whereupon an employee of the yard called Ma was forthwith also arrested. The matter has been made known to Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai.

THE BISHOP ON OPIUM.

A PUBLIC SIN.

On August 26th the Bishop of Victoria preached in St. John's Cathedral on "Public Morality and the Opium Trade." Taking for his text the verse commencing "If thy right hand offend thee," he said that there were few people who questioned the morality of the Sermon on the Mount. Very few people, however, lived up to its standard and the majority adopted a standard which they considered more in accord with their surroundings. After pointing out the unwisdom of lowering the standard his Lordship asked if it were applicable to national life. Surely there could be only one answer to that question. The whole Bible, especially the Old Testament, constantly enforced the duty of righteousness. Righteousness, said Solomon, exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proceeding he said—I want to apply these principles to the question of the opium trade. It is a question which has been brought into considerable prominence this year both in England and Hongkong, and also in other parts of the world. There are two aspects of this question so far as we are concerned. There is the imperial aspect, that which naturally attracts the chief attention at home and which should also interest us here as being members of the empire. Then there is also the local aspect, which ought certainly to have our careful consideration as affecting the public morality of the Colony in which we live. The imperial question is whether the Indo-Chinese opium trade should be continued. The local question relates to the manner in which the opium trade should be conducted in this Colony. The two questions are distinct one from the other. Let us therefore treat them separately. With regard to the Indo-Chinese opium trade, it will be out of place to enter here into a discussion of the history of this trade in the past or to enquire as to how far it is true that the opium trade was forced on China at the point of the bayonet. It is not of the past I wish to speak. I confine myself now to the present. Twice within the last fifteen years the House of Commons has affirmed its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible and has requested the Government to take steps for bringing the trade to a speedy close. During these fifteen years the Government has done nothing to carry out the moral conviction of the House of Commons, chiefly, it is stated, because of financial reasons. Seventy years ago the House of Commons came to the conviction that the slave trade was morally indefensible, and in the year 1833 the nation paid down twenty millions sterling in order to rid itself of that sin. Has the moral sense of the nation become so blunted during the last seventy years that it will not for financial reasons do away with that which it confesses to be wrong? I can understand, though I deplore, the weakness and the inconsistency of the individual who cannot bring himself to give up some sinful habit, such for instance as gambling, that he knows to be morally indefensible. I know many people sympathise with the wretched condition of hundreds of thousands of Chinese who are bound down by the opium curse, who deplore the evil and the misery which it entails upon themselves and upon others but who cannot summon up moral strength to break the chains with which they are held and cast the evil thing away. Only last February a medical friend of mine received an invitation to go down to a Chinese village to help in curing every opium smoker in the village. The whole community had decided to get rid of the accursed thing. With the help of the doctor all the opium smokers in the village, eighty in number, were cured of the habit, and the village elders cleared away every vestige of opium, every sign of an opium shop out of the place. We all know that there are literally hundreds of thousands—I believe I may say millions—of people like that, slaves of vice longing to be free, but unable to break the chains that bind them. With such people I can sympathise. Again I can understand, though I cannot sympathise with, the cynical attitude of the Singapore opium

farmer who said with regard to the opium farm there "Speaking for my conscience I am dead against the opium business . . . but if the law calls for tenders I will take advantage of the law, I will make money by it." I can understand that man's attitude, for he knew nothing of the Sermon on the Mount. I confess I don't understand the attitude of a strong and wealthy Christian nation which for the sake of money persists in this trade which it confesses to be morally indefensible and tries to cover its sin by saying that poor weak distracted China must take the initiative to stop the accursed thing. . . . To us, the English nation, the question ought not to be what does China want or what will China do? but—Is this trade right, or is it wrong? The trade increases the incalculable misery of millions of our fellows, and tends to a grievous deterioration of a noble race, and is indeed morally indefensible. I would pray for more grace that our nation should do what is right even if at the cost of plucking it out we cut off our right hand. Then with regard to the local question, the manner in which the opium trade should be conducted in this Colony, I cannot speak at length. I would speak with caution. In the close relationship in which we are necessarily one to another in this small community, there is special need to avoid anything which might cause pain to those who hold office and who are working for the good of the Colony. I do feel that the office which I hold in the Church of God makes it incumbent upon me to plead as strongly and as clearly as I can for the cause of righteousness, and I believe that those who have really considered the matter will agree with me when I say that the present mode of conducting the opium trade in this Colony is morally indefensible. It is, I think, open to question whether any government is ever justified in farming out its revenue. In the case of the opium farm it must have an evil tendency. It must tend to the increase of the opium vice. It involves the shirking of responsibilities on the part of those who ought to control it. It places great powers, which we know are liable to abuse, in the hands of private individuals instead of being in the hands of duly appointed government officials. It has been defended, it is true, sometimes for the sake of the revenue, sometimes on the ground that government control is difficult and involves considerable expense. But the question is not whether the revenue would suffer. No one would suppose that prohibition is to arrive at once. The most that can be hoped for is its gradual reduction. . . . The main question for us ought to be, Is this thing right? If as I believe most of us agree that this mode of conducting the opium trade here is not right then surely it is our duty to endeavour to get rid of it, whatever the cost may be. Whether we consider the nation, the colony or the individual it is true with regard to all that righteousness exalteth and that sin is a reproach. May God in His mercy so stir the heart of our nation, so stir the heart of our colony, that the reproach of this opium trade may be put away, and may He so stir the heart of each individual in this church to-day that we may all realise by God's grace the power of God's holy spirit working in our heart to put away sin not only in our public lives but in our private lives, even though it be at the cost of plucking out of the individual or the Government the right hand.

V.R.C. FETE.

It was a happy suggestion which emanated from the V.R.C. committee to hold a swimming gala at night, and when it took practical shape last night the result was unanimously pronounced a distinct success. Kitson lights illuminated the bathing area. Its rays danced on the rippling waves, and showed the gleaming bodies of the competitors, making a scene that was decidedly attractive. Its picturesqueness was of course enhanced by the dainty costumes of the ladies and the light garb of the gentlemen. It was feared at one time that the presence of a typhoon in the vicinity would affect the attendance, but fortunately all fears disappeared on Aug. 31, and the number present was exceptionally large. The arrangements

were all that could be desired, and a good night's sport was enjoyed. Results:

Three Lengths' Handicap—First heat, P. M. Remedios, 48 secs.; second heat, J. A. Lyon, 44 secs.; third heat, J. M. Roza Pereira, 48½ secs.; fourth heat, A. H. Carroll 48 secs.; fifth heat, J. M. Lopes, 49 secs. Final.—1, Lyon; 2, Lopes. A keen struggle at the close. In the early stages the scratch men found they could not wipe off the handicap.

Plunging. Seventeen competitors entered. F. K. Tata, J. Witchell and R. Lapsley were the three best. Tata failed to do so well on his second attempt and Witchell won.

A pleasant interlude was taken up with the antics of two "ladies" and two "gentlemen" on a boating excursion, which resulted in all four struggling in the water.

Running header from springboard—two prizes. One for best, M. A. R. Souza; worst J. W. Bains.

Challenge Team Race. Four teams entered, V. R. C. "B," 87th Co. R. G. A., Hongkong Yacht Club, and R. W. K. The struggle lay between V. R. C. and the R. G. A., the latter starting off with a lead. Bains, however, secured the first place for the V. R. C.

A polo match between scratch teams, though not on the programme, was introduced at the request of a number of spectators, and proved very exciting.

Life Saving Race. A big entry. First three to arrive were disqualified because "rescued" assisted. Hatton and Cooper won.

SHOOTING.

The last monthly rifle meeting of the season 1905-6 Right Half No. 2 Company. H.R.V.C., was held on August 26th at Tai Hang. The following were the best cards returned:—

	Net.	Handicap.	total.
Corporal A. J. Darby	82	6	88
Gunner H. D. Derwen	67	21	88
Gunner F. A. Gray	68	18	86
Gunner F. A. Biden	70	15	85
Gunner H. T. Jackman	71	9	80

The cup presented by Lieut. Nicholson for the highest aggregate of eight out of the twelve monthly shoots was won by Corporal A. J. Darby. Scores:—

1 Corporal A. J. Darby	627
2 Gunner H. T. Jackman	664
3 Corporal G. Blood	660
4 Gunner F. A. Biden	652
5 Captain Armstrong	625
6 Gunner A. F. Warrack	624

The cup presented by F. Maitland, Esq., for the highest aggregate of three out of four shoots from May to August was won by Corporal G. Blood. Scores:—

1 Corporal G. Blood	264
2 Gunner F. Austin	253
3 Corporal A. J. Darby	251
4 Captain Armstrong	237
5 Gunner F. A. Biden	237
6 Gunner A. F. Warrack	228

THE OPIUM FARM.

BIG DROP IN PURCHASE PRICE.

Tenders for the purchase of the privileges known as the Opium Farm closed at the Colonial Secretary's Office on August 31st. As was anticipated, there was a heavy drop the purchase price, so that the Government will have to devise other means to raise the \$49,000 worth of revenue which will be lost by the acceptance of the highest tender.

The successful tenderer was Lok Yau, the present farmer, and the amount of his tender was \$121,000 per month. On the last occasion when tenders were called his offer of \$185,000 per month for the privileges connected with the farm was accepted by Government. During the year, however, the heavy losses which he sustained induced the Government to reduce his monthly payment to \$170,000, and even then the business was not flourishing.

VOLUNTEER TROOP GYMKHANA.

A SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION.

Of the most enjoyable events that have taken place on the Happy Valley one was the Gymkhana of the Hongkong Volunteer Troop, which was held on the football ground on the 25th August. Two postponements gave the competitors more time to perfect themselves in the interesting and exciting events which combined to make an excellent programme, and when they appeared on the field on Saturday, in the pink of condition, they displayed a skill and prowess which delighted the large concourse of spectators. The weather was perfect, and as a result the number of ladies in attendance was larger than is usually the case, the football stand being comfortably filled. H. E. the Governor was present, also Sir Francis and Lady Piggott. Light refreshments were served in a marquee, also on the open space fronting the stand, and the gallant members of the Troop, which mustered in full force, neglected no opportunity which could have been taken advantage of to better the good time which they had decided, and successfully, to give their visitors. The West Kent Band, under Bandmaster McKelvie played musical selections during the afternoon, and the judges, Lieut. Colonel Aitken and Major Pritchard, R.A., commandant of the H.K.V.C., carried out their duties to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The events resulted as under:—

Tent pegging by half-sections. Two runs for all competitors, after which judges will call for further runs if necessary.

Lieut. Ross and Sergt. Moxon	1
Troopers Clarke and Hickman	2
Troopers W. S. Dupree and R. F. C. Master	3

In this event the number of marks that could be gained for each run was twelve, and the judges could, if they thought a competitor was not riding at a sufficiently rapid pace, disqualify him. There were no disqualifications, however. The riders gave the ponies free rein and encouraged them with a touch of the spur. The pegging on the whole was good, and Lieut. Ross and Sergeant Moxon deserved their win.

Lemon-Cutting with swords. Competitors had to start from the "slope," "engage," and make cuts one and two on the right, slope swords. Each competitor was allowed two runs unless the judges called for a third.

Trooper W. S. Dupree	1
Trooper R. F. C. Master	2
Sergeant G. C. Moxon	3

The heats in this event were decided on Thursday, so that the number of competitors on Saturday was reduced to five. They were Sergeant G. C. Moxon, Corporal L. Murphy and Troopers W. S. Dupree, J. E. Gresson and R. F. C. Master. Three points were allowed for each sliced lemon, and one each for touch, style and pace. Master and Dupree were going strong for the honour of victory which was pronounced in favour of the latter when, in his second attempt, he cut both lemons in half amid great applause.

Heads and Posts. Competitors had to start from the "slope," "engage," "assault," cut one and point one on the right, cut four, and point four on the right, slope swords. Two runs for each competitor. Third runs only for those called for by the judges.

Trooper H. E. Hickman	1
Trooper R. F. C. Master	2
Trooper C. H. Blason	3

Four posts were erected on the field some distance apart, and on top of each of these was placed a Turk's head. The competitors were required to sever the vegetable while at the gallop. Sergeant Moxon must have been in bad form indeed, for of the four Turk's heads Trooper Hickman, the winner, took three of the four nicely, and was applauded for his effort. Trooper Blason hit three, but his style and pace not being equal to that of Trooper Master, he had to forego second place, which was given the latter.

Led Pony Race. Competitors to ride one pony and lead another (both saddled) over a figure eight course.

Trooper W. S. Dupree, leading Lieut. Brutton's pony	1
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Trooper E. G. Ferguson, leading Trooper Walker's pony 2
Trooper B. James leading Trooper Morton-Smith's pony 3

LADIES' NOMINATION RACE.—Troopers to be nominated by a lady. Ladies to line up in front of grand stand. Start from a point indicated, ride up to flag, dismount, and lead pony by headrope up to lady, and hand her your tunic with all buttons off, and chain shoulder straps unhooked, then retire to flag and stand to your pony. Lady to put in buttons and fix on straps, and when finished to signal to her partner, who will double up, put on tunic, button it up and hook collar, return to flag, then tie up headrope, mount and ride round course to be pointed out. First home with tunic and headrope to the satisfaction of the judges to win.

Trooper R. F. C. Master, nominated by Miss Master 1

Trooper W. S. Dupree, nominated by Mrs Pritchard 2

Trooper E. A. Hankey, nominated by Mrs. F. J. Barrett 3

The ladies were expert at attaching the buttons and shoulder straps to their nominee's tunics, and did not keep them long in suspense. Dupree was first past the winning post, but as his pony was too flighty to allow him to fix the head rope properly, he lost to Master.

Victoria Cross Race. Entries in pairs. Odd number to represent a wounded man, and to lie down at a point indicated. Even number to gallop up to his wounded comrade under fire, assist him to mount behind his own saddle and return to winning post.

Troopers G. K. Hall Brutton and W. S. Dupree (wounded) 1

Sergt. G. C. Moxon and Trooper C. G. Mackie (wounded) 2

Troopers H. F. Hickman and H. Dowbiggin (wounded) 3

The "heroes" had to face a withering rifle fire, provided by a number of the West Kent regiment, gallop across the battlefield and bear their wounded comrades to a place of safety. Although the competitors enjoyed the fun the ponies were not so ready to face "the thin red line." But they did it. After the first volley they took things quietly enough, and the race ended as stated.

Running and Leading race. Entries in pairs. Course rectangular, angles, say, A, B, C, D. On the word "go" the even number will lead his partner's pony round course ABC, keeping flags on his right hand, the odd number will run across the ground from A to C. At C the even number will dismount, hand both ponies to his partner, and run across the ground from C to A. The odd number will mount his own pony and lead the other round course CDA, keeping flags on his right hand. At point A the even number will meet his partner, mount his own pony and ride as a half section to winning post. First half section past the post having complied with foregoing conditions to win.

Troopers W. S. Dupree and G. K. Hall Brutton 1

Corpl. L. Murphy and Trooper R. F. C. Master 2

Troopers C. G. Mackie and W. G. Clarke 3
Balaclava Mée. To be competed for by half the Troop versus the other. Leaders will be selected, and they will select the teams by lot. No spurs allowed. Competitors will be provided with dummy swords and cockades, half the Troop blue the other half red. The object of the competition is to knock off your opponents' cockades. Opponents' ponies may not be hit, competitors must keep within bounds, and retire at once when cockade is knocked off.

The troops in this event lined up as under:—
Blue:—Lieut. Ross (in command), Troopers Walker, Blason, Henchman, Brutton, Stewart, Clarke, Leafe, Dupree and Dowbiggin.

Red:—Sergeant Moxon (in command), Corporal Murphy, Troopers Anderson, Hankey, Master, Forbes, J. E. Gresson, C. G. Mackie, H. F. Hickman and Kent.

The blues routed the reds in this event by superior tactics. They rode in wedge formation, and split the reds. One by one wearers of the red cockade were laid low until only Mr. Gresson survived, and had to defend himself against eight of the blues. For three or four minutes he kept his opponents at bay.

but eventually numbers told and his cockade passed from his head.

At the conclusion, H.E. the Governor congratulated members of the Troop on the success of their undertaking, and referred to the exercises which were useful in warfare. He then proceeded to present the prizes to the winners, after which he called for three cheers for the Officer commanding the Troop, and his call was fittingly responded to. Messrs. M. Stewart, F. B. Deacon, W. G. Gresson, G. C. Moxon and C. H. Moss presented the prizes to the Troop.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 30th.

AN UNIMPORTANT ELECTION.

On Sunday, the 2nd proximo, there will be an election by the Macao citizens of a representative at S. Bento, Portugal. As the election is not of much importance, I believe that it will prove a very tame affair, only those who are compelled to vote will do so. The independent voters know that Timor (the sister colony) will elect whom they or the Government wants. I understand, however, that this will be the last election of the kind, as Macao will have to elect its own representative independently of Timor the next time. More interest will then be given to the election.

THE WEATHER.

Yesterday's weather was very threatening, and the glass fell very low. We thought that a typhoon was going to visit us. The inner harbour was full of fishing and other junks which have come in for shelter; H. M. S. *Moorhen* was also here. The weather to-day has improved on the whole, but it is raining hard.

THE SEA SERPENT AGAIN?

This morning as the bathers were as usual having their dip on the beach opposite the Bay View House a strange animal of several feet in length was observed by those on the sands. The bathers were at once apprized of the danger, and they immediately quitted the water. The animal appeared like a crocodile and was about ten or twelve feet long. Sportsmen are keeping a watch for this monster, which has somewhat intimidated and reduced the usual crowd of bathers in this much frequented spot.

CHINESE PEARL SMUGGLERS.

The Manila *Cablenews* has the following amusing story:—

The dramatic bluff put up by Cleopatra when she swallowed two or three dinky little pearls in order to create a sensation, pales into insignificance before the everyday stunt of a Chinaman named Ong Lam, who is charged with attempting to smuggle pearls and other valuable articles into Manila last week.

Among the stock brought over by Lam was about a half a pound of pearls not very large but somewhat valuable, worth four or five hundred pesos. They were concealed in the after compartment of Lam's trousers and seized by the unfeeling custom's detectives. When Lam came up for examination yesterday at the custom-house in order to make his defence, he was primed to the muzzle with a plan for routing the officials. He calmly swore on oath that the pearls were not in intention pearls, but medicine and under the direction of a prominent Chinese physician in Hongkong, were to be taken internally as a cure for tuberculosis in any stage. He had forgotten the doctor's name and did not exactly remember the doses of pearls needed, but he declared that the jewels were for medical use and not the adornment of female beauty.

Somehow the officials thought Lam was carrying medical innovations too far and of the *Materia Medica* or they just naturally thought he was lying, anyhow they fined him \$133 gold for bringing the pearls over on the steamer *Itubi* and not mentioning the fact to his friends in the custom house.

Ju Hoan, another Chinaman who came over on the same boat and was a friend of Lam's, also had some pearls, about six ounces. He claimed the same healing properties for his bag of six ounces and was fined \$69 on the same ground.

NORTH CHINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tientsin, August 18th.

MAJOR NATHAN'S ACCIDENT.

On the 16th Major Nathan, the popular agent and general manager of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., and brother of the Governor of Hongkong, was in a ricksha in the Taku Road here, when a passing vehicle came into collision with his and threw him out. The thoroughfare is a very busy one, and the consequences at that particular moment might easily have been worse than they were. As it was, the Major sustained a bad sprain of the ankle which will keep him confined to the house for at least a fortnight.

EXPLOSION AT PEKING.

A more terrible accident occurred yesterday in Peking. The High Commissioners who have been abroad studying foreign administrative systems brought back with them, among other things, complete cinematograph paraphernalia, and a performance was arranged for the benefit of high officials and their friends. Two French experts were brought from Tientsin to operate the cinematograph. The audience, a crowded one, was startled in the middle of the entertainment by an explosion, which had most regrettable results. Two well known Chinese were instantaneously killed, and three others seriously injured. One of the killed was Col. Cho, one of the ablest and most up-to-date military men in the Chinese service. He had accompanied the Commissioners on their journey. The other was Mr. Ho, perhaps the ablest and most promising member of the staff of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. At any rate he was generally regarded as having an unusually brilliant commercial career in prospect.

IMPERIAL BIRTHDAY AT TIENTSIN.

The Emperor's birthday is always celebrated with much circumstance in the North. Especially is this the case in Tientsin, where the Viceroy Yunan utilises the occasion for one of those demonstrations of pro-foreign feeling which have made him so popular. Unfortunately on Tuesday His Excellency was seized with a feverish attack, and his doctors prohibited him from attending the reception at the Yamen the following day (the 15th). Sorry as the foreigners present were to miss the opportunity of meeting the Viceroy in person, no one in the circumstances of the Viceroy's illness could have wished to see him burdened with the fatigue of such functions as appertain to the celebration of the Emperor's birthday. This is a much more elaborate affair in Tientsin than in Peking. Here the Viceroy's task in doing the honours of the day at the Yamen is no enviable one. His Excellency, with the other officials of the city and province of which he is head, usually gets up before daylight to perform the necessary religious devotions at the temple. Then follows a Viceregal reception of all the leading Chinese of the city and surrounding district. After that there is a general reception of official and unofficial foreigners. That fills up the morning, any spare minutes being occupied by sing-song. In the afternoon is more sing-song, followed by an official dinner. To this succeeds more sing-song, and the day concludes with a crowded reception of specially invited guests, lasting over three hours, till after midnight. The Viceroy has to exchange greetings and look and say pleasant things to many hundreds of persons, and must be sincerely glad when he is through with his nearly twenty-four hours of hard labour.

ARMY MANOEUVRES.

The next prominent function in which the Viceroy of Chihli will take a leading part will be the forthcoming army manoeuvres in October. These will follow the lines of the manoeuvres of last autumn, and, despite published rumours to the contrary, will be no less important, if, indeed, they are not more so. In fact, I am led to understand that one result to be expected is that, as last year's manoeuvres were followed by the announcement of the date of the withdrawal of the German troops of occupation from this province, so this autumn's manoeuvres may be expected to be followed by the announcement of the date of withdrawal of

the British and Japanese troops. This withdrawal is already decided on in principle, but no date has yet been fixed. The French military authorities have already determined both the principle and the date of the withdrawal of the major portion of their corps of occupation.

CONSTITUTION IN THE AIR.

Both sets of Commissioners have now presented their reports and recommendations. It is surprising how much agreement there is between them. Their most important and serious divergence is as to the date of the institution of constitutional reform in China. Duke Tsai Tse and his fellow Commissioners are for launching into the whole scheme recommended by them immediately. Tuan Fang and his companion favour a gradual adoption of the proposed new state of things. This, of course, is a vital difference. Otherwise there is practical agreement that the new Chinese constitution should follow the lines of a combination of the French and Japanese parliamentary systems. Both parties recommend the formation of a Home Affairs Office, to thoroughly reorganise the internal administration of the Empire.

CHINESE EMIGRATION.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—The real explanation of the paucity of women accompanying Chinese male emigrants is to be found, it would appear, in the moral stigma attaching in the Chinese mind to a woman leaving her country and in the consequent difficulty, which more often than not amounts to an impossibility, of obtaining for her the necessary leave of absence from the clan. In view of such a stigma it is easy to understand the reluctance on the part of the men to attempt to take their wives abroad with them. The subject has a special interest to-day owing to the fact that much of the genuine part of the outcry raised in Great Britain against the employment of Chinese coolies in the Transvaal was based on the assumption that these men were being forcibly kept apart from their wives and families for a period of three years. So strong was the Home feeling on this subject that the Transvaal Government was obliged to insert a clause in the Labour Importation Bill making provision for the bringing over of the wives of the coolies at the expense of the mine-owners. Like other philanthropic suggestions emanating from well-meaning people in Great Britain the scheme did not appeal to the Chinese coolies, for only some four or five asked to have their wives brought over. It would, perhaps, have saved many heart-burnings among the genuine, though mistaken, humanitarians who opposed Chinese labour in the Transvaal, if they had known the views held in China on the subject of female emigration.

There is a very stringent custom which few Chinese care to ignore. Any Chinese, man or woman, who leaves the country without the consent of his family, is expelled from the clan. This is the most humiliating experience that anyone could be called to undergo, and it carries with it a disgrace that will for ever cling to the unfortunate victim. Only in peculiar cases is this permission granted to a married woman. Sir John Bowring gives an example in his "Autobiographical Recollections" which is worth reproducing. "One of the richest Chinese in Samarang, he writes, 'paid me a visit in Canton to beg my assistance in securing permission to take his wife with him to Java. The disgrace attending a married woman leaving China and the strength of the clan to which she belonged was so great that the most strenuous efforts, combined with the offer of a large sum of money, could not accomplish the desired result.' And it would not be difficult to adduce other similar instances. A few statistical items, showing the vast disproportion of women to men who leave their own country for foreign lands, may not be inappropriate here. In 1899 there arrived in Singapore about 107,604 men and 5,514 women; the latter being five per cent. of the former. In Amoy the numbers were 53,775 men and 342 women. In Swatow 31,911 men against 966 women, which is only about three per cent.

THE EXTENSION OF SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT.

The difficulty experienced by the Municipal Council in collecting a rate from a section of the inhabitants in the Paoshan suburb to cover the cost of a modified form of lighting, scavenging and police protection has been temporarily overcome, states the *N.C. Daily News*. A proclamation has been issued by the Taotai enjoining Chinese residents who make use of the Waterworks Company's water supply to pay through their landlord the necessary rate. The following is a translation of the proclamation, which has been posted up in various parts of the district:—

"Notice is hereby given that the Municipal Council cannot levy taxes outside Settlement limits. Recently, however, owing to the landlords of the premises in the Tien-pao-li, and Nanling-li, North Szechuen Road; Ju kong-jao, Yung-shen-li, Teh-sung-li, Chenteh-li and Lai-on-li, applying to the Waterworks Co. for supply of water to their houses without first reporting the matter for the Taotai's consideration and instructions, some trouble ensued when the Council went to collect the water rate from the tenants. The Taotai having now carefully considered this question is of the opinion that it is a good idea on the part of the landlords in obtaining the supply of water for convenience of the residents and that it is therefore reasonable that a fee should be paid for it, as they can derive therefrom the benefit of protecting their health as well as preventing the outbreak of fires. But in accordance with the regulation existing in the Settlement the water charge is added to or included in the house rental and under these circumstances this rate in the above-said localities should also be paid by the landlords, so that the same system may be adopted therein. The Taotai will communicate with the Senior Consul informing him of the fact that the water rate in question should be paid by the landlords, and in the meanwhile this proclamation is issued and the residents in the said districts are hereby notified that hereafter with the exception of those who do not use water, and who are therefore not required to pay the fee, the water rate should be paid by the landlords, so that foreigners may not lose this fee while the residents will have the convenience and use of waterworks water; thus both parties would be benefited thereby. It is to be noted that a Works Bureau having now been established in Paoshan outside the Settlement, when applying for or before getting a water supply to their premises, all residents should report the matter for its approval from time to time, so that any trouble or complications may be avoided. A special notification. Let all obey."

ANTI-OPIMUM ARGUMENTS.

HALF A CENTURY AGO.

Agitations against the opium trade are not new. The following excerpts are from a translation of bills posted on one of the walls of the Foreign Settlement of Shanghai, fifty years ago:—

"How ridiculous it is for Barbarians to come to Shanghai thinking by preaching to gain the hearts of the people. For us to deem this a good deed is alas! too late. Twenty years previously they might have preached with more chance of success. But in the first place opium, the originating cause of the evil, has ruined the minds of the people; and then, having deliberated with no good heart, soldiers came out and without any reason brought desolating sorrow upon the place, reduced the city and suburbs and slew ten thousand people. Their hearts penurious, their counsels short-sighted, formerly they erred. Now they circulate tracts; but their doctrine is not good. The people in their hearts hate them—aye, detest them to the very backbone. They should speedily assemble and destroy these apes.

If you would discourse concerning sin, tell of your own misdeeds, which are pre-eminent. Though every one of you were out in twain the punishment would be too light."

WHOLESALE MURDER IN KWANGTUNG.

SUPPOSED MURDERER ARRESTED IN HONGKONG.

A blood-curdling story of crime in the turbulent province of Kwangtung was made known to the local police last week when the Chinese Government applied for the extradition of the alleged murderer. When the case comes before the Police Court, we believe the following details will be found fairly accurate. It appears that the tragedy occurred some time ago at Pichung village in the Namhoi district. The meat market in this village is said to be run by a company in which the alleged murderer was a shareholder. At a rowdy meeting of shareholders the man under arrest is said to have shot another who strenuously opposed some proposition he brought forward at the meeting. The murderer, being a member of the most powerful clan in that district, was not called to task for his misdeed, it is said, because the villagers feared the vengeance of the clan. This first murder caused the meat company to be dissolved, and a new company was formed, the name of the accused not being included in the list of shareholders. After a lapse of about two months, during which time the business was carried on profitably, the defendant appeared before the market armed with a Winchester repeater rifle. He fired two shots in the air, which brought the manager of the market out to learn the cause of the trouble. As soon as he appeared the defendant is alleged to have taken aim and fired at him. The manager fell down dead, being shot through the brain. Then the murderer turned and fired at an Indian watchman, the bullet entering his shoulder. The watchman promptly closed with the murderer, and a fierce hand-to-hand encounter took place. A small boy engaged in the market, who had been a witness of the scene from the beginning, armed himself with a chopper and rushed to the watchman's assistance. He plied his weapon on the murderer's body and inflicted several nasty wounds. Then, when he saw the watchman being overpowered, he took to his heels. The defendant is alleged to have disembowelled the watchman, after which he fled, running in the direction of the river. When he arrived on the bank he hailed a sampan which was occupied by two women; there was also a baby lying on the deck. He asked the women to run alongside and take him aboard, but they, seeing he was covered in blood, refused. At this, the brute is alleged to have levelled his rifle and shot both. One of the women when shot, fell on the body of the child, which has since succumbed. The man then made good his escape and ultimately arrived at Hongkong. The wrath of the populace, however, when the full extent of his crimes became known, was sufficiently unanimous to move the magistrate to action, and the clan, of which the alleged murderer was a member were threatened with extermination if they did not deliver him up. They took prompt steps, and as a result one of them traced him to Hongkong, and the necessary steps were taken to secure his arrest. The man was brought before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court subsequently, when the Chinese Government applied for his extradition, and the case was remanded for a week.

FRENCH INDO-CHINESE RAILWAY.

An account of a journey recently made by the British Consul at Hanoi (Mr. T. F. Carlisle) from Hanoi to Yunnanfu, is interesting. The railway from Yenbai to Laokai was opened to public traffic on 1st February, putting thereby the frontier of Yunnan into railway communication with Haiphong, the port of Tongking. After reaching Laokai Mr. Carlisle proceeded along the Nam Ti valley to Mengtse, which is the course followed by the Indo-Chinese railway, and continued along the route of the railway to Yunnanfu. On his return he took the route via Manhao and the Red River, which has been the usual route for travellers between Tongking and Yunnan. This, he says, will doubtless be gradually abandoned in favour of

the Nam Ti route as the railway advances along the latter. The consensus of opinion seems to be that the line will probably be completed for traffic in three or four years. A closer estimate cannot be given and even this depends upon the continued absence of any causes that might interfere with the supply of labour. When it is opened Mr. Carlisle fully anticipates that it will carry a considerable import into Yunnan of goods from Hongkong. Foreign goods in transit through Tongking have to pay only 20 per cent. of the French general tariff. In addition to this they would have to pay, of course, the Chinese import duties.

Mr. Carlisle continues: But even granting that the districts of Yunnan lying south of the capital receive the bulk of their foreign imports by way of the railway, will such traffic be sufficient to make the latter pay in view of what it will have cost by the time it is finished? Local French opinion seems now to doubt it, and to hold that railway connection between Yunnanfu and Szechuan will have to be provided somehow to give sufficient traffic to the Haiphong-Yunnanfu line. If one regarded the actual course of the railway alone, one would have little hesitation in coming to this conclusion also. The portion from Laokai to Mengtse (164 kilometres) contains no promise of future trade whatever. From Mengtse northwards the prospect is considerably brighter. But still a great part of the course of the railway lies through unproductive country, such as the narrow valleys and gorges of the Poi Ta Ho.

Had I left Yunnan, having seen only the course of the line, I should have gone away with the impression that it was a country too poor to make it worth while to build railways in it. But my return journey by the route on the west of the trace showed me that there was a considerable population there within easy reach of the line, and I understand that there is a similar belt on the east. Between these two regions and with the country immediately on its route, together with the more remote parts of the province, which are sure to contribute a certain amount of traffic in time there should be enough business for the railway, provided that the French Custom-house and railway officials do not hamper traffic with heavy duties and freights and vexatious regulations. I still do not regard Yunnan as a rich country, but of course, I have only seen a portion of it. I may possibly contain great mineral wealth in the hills and mountains with which a great part of it is covered, but this remains to be proved. I believe that Monsieur Lantenais, Chief de Service des Mines, in the Public Works Department of Indo-China, has expressed an opinion unfavourable to the idea of the great value of Yunnanese mines. (The tin of Ko Chiu is, of course, a valuable asset).

Whether or not there is enough wealth in the province to make the Yunnan railway a financial success, I have no doubt that there is enough to purchase a considerable quantity of foreign goods when they can be brought up by train in two or three days' journey from Haiphong instead of having to submit to the cost and risks of the long voyage overland or by the Red River, and I confidently expect therefore, a large increase in the import of foreign goods into Yunnan. I make no doubt, too, that a large proportion of these goods will be of British origin and imported from Hongkong.

SHANGHAI COUNCILLORS DIFFER.

CHAIRMAN RESIGNS.

A *Daily Press* telegram from Shanghai, dated August 26th, said:

Mr. C. W. Holliday, Chairman of the Municipal Council, has resigned.

Mr. H. Keawick, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., has been elected to fill the vacancy.

The difference of opinion in Council leading to the resignation was a slight question of tactics, not principle.

The Council was unanimous that a Chinese criminal jail should not be constructed in the Settlement.

Mr. Holliday disagreed with the method of attaining the end and thwarting Chinese scheming.

SILK IN CHINA.

Mr. Haynes, United States Consul at Nanking, writing of the Chinese silk industry, says the *lusang*, or "domestic mulberry," is cultivated in China in preference to all other for the silkworm. Most mulberry plantations are begun with the wild plant, to which the domestic is grafted. The spot chosen is high and level, if possible, and should be rich. A wet soil is injurious to the roots. The trees should be planted six or seven feet apart in holes 1½ feet deep and 3 feet in diameter, wherein liquid manure has been placed. This, after the roots have had the earth sifted and tightly packed around them, obviates the need of daily watering.

In February the shoots are cut down to within 1½ feet of the ground. Then two sprouts are allowed to grow, which, by October, will be some five or six feet high. In February of the third year the upper parts are pruned to about 1½ feet above the original stem. Again on each branch only two sprouts are allowed to grow, which, by October, will also be 5 or 6 feet high. These are pruned at the same time, February, and at the same length as the others. This process is continued for five years, after which they are allowed to grow without pruning until May or June, when both stems and leaves are cut off, and are called the first crop of mulberry for feeding. If all the leaves are not consumed they should be cut off, or else the next year's growth will be thin and small. Subsequently two sprouts only are permitted to grow on each uppermost branch, all sprouts below and on the trunk being rubbed off, so that in the fall there will be in all 16 branches to supply the next year's crop. The full-grown tree is about 5 feet high, so that it can be easily cultivated and leaves gathered by any ordinary-sized person. The longest-lived trees are said to last over 50 years. One tree will produce from 75 to 100 pounds of leaves.

Raw silk in China is produced from five kinds of worms, (1) Those that eat mulberry leaves; (2) those eating ailanthus leaves; (3) those feeding on oak tree leaves; (4) wild worms feeding on a shrub (*Xanthoxylon alantum*) called by the Chinese *huatsiao* or peppery flower. Silk produced from worms of this is very small in quantity and can not be bought in the market. It is made into cloth for private individuals, and when manufactured has a slight aroma, which the natives say makes it moth proof.

An expert in silk at Canton wrote to the Swiss Government, saying there were "so many different varieties of silk worms in China that for an elaborate report a special study of them would be necessary." In Southern China the *Taysam* and *Lusang* are generally grown. The cocoons of the former are said to be larger and of better quality than the latter, but the latter breeds oftener because hardier. The expert in Canton says that mulberry leaves are spread over the seed to provide food immediately the worms are hatched, after which these leaves, thickly covered with worms, are placed on bamboo sticks and put on frames. In Nanking and the surrounding country, one of the principal silkgrowing regions of China, the seed are hatched in a box or on paper, from which, after being fed for some three weeks, they are attached to straws and require no more feeding, but begin spinning their cocoons, which, when finished, are boiled, to soften and to kill the worm (larva). If not killed, this worm gnaws through the cocoons, ruinously cutting the threads. Silk raisers allow many to do this in order to get eggs, as they are laid only by the liberated moth. The seed must be kept warm during the winter. Occasionally they are carried in the pocket to receive the warmth of the body, sometimes in the bed, but generally in a box. Too much warmth hatches them.

The silkworm's life is forty-five or fifty days—five spent in spinning, ten as a chrysalis in the cocoon, and the remainder as a caterpillar. When first hatched it is tiny and black; when ready to spin it is about 2 inches long. Hatching is in the morning and in a well-ventilated room. Often mulberry-leaf dust is sprinkled on the paper, so that the fragrance of the leaf may attract the young. They are then transferred to a pan and placed in a dry, warm place. The

eggs remaining on the paper are daily treated in the same way until all are hatched. The health of the worms is ascertained by watching them when they feed and noting their colour. If they eat rapidly and with relish they are strong and well. If the skin lacks an oily or shiny coat the worm is useless and must be thrown away; when the joints show a green and blue colour it is not good; when it is of a dead white colour it is valueless. Flies should be carefully kept away from the worms; they also dislike strangers and loud talking. The ailments of silkworms are due mostly to sudden changes of temperature. The leaves should never be fed with the morning dew on them, and leaves picked in the afternoon dry rapidly and overheat the worms. The leaves should be picked in the morning when the dew has been evaporated by the sun. The blossoms of the wild silver flower (a species of honeysuckle) and liquorice root steeped in water are used to sprinkle over the mulberry leaves before they are given to the young worms. These are believed to be efficacious in preventing the ordinary ailments of the worms.

Sometimes the eggs are sprinkled with pulverized lime, which, being dusted off, is followed by a covering of cold baked salt and a soaking for some ten days in cold tea. Afterwards clean water is slowly poured over them to remove the salt. They are then dried, folded between wadded clothing, and placed in boxes. After a week they are hatched either by artificial or natural heat. Unsalted eggs are more liable to disease, consume more leaves, grow larger, and spin cocoons less large and thick than the salted kind. One of the rules complied by the gentry of Chien Ping for the cultivation of the silkworm is as follows: "The eggs are hatched by heat, but the heat must not be too great. When the mulberry begins to bud, take the egg cloths down, fold them once or twice according to their size (if folded too thick the heat of the body will not penetrate them), and wrap them in paper; during the daytime place them on the chests or back of persons not doing hard work, lest the perspiration destroy the eggs; during the night put them into the wadding of quilts, but do not lie on them. If the weather is warm they may also be kept in the quilts during the day. In six or seven days the eggs will be hatched. If the quilts are used the wadding must be new (old wadding does not retain heat). Should the season be late delay the hatching a few days." When the worms appear they are placed in a tray and covered with leaves. After eating for some days they take what is known as the first sleep. This over, they eat again for four or five days and take a second sleep, all the while growing larger and consuming more. This continues until the fourth or final sleep, three days after which the worms, now about two inches long, are placed upon straw for spinning.

THE YANGTSE STEAMER SERVICE.

NEW JAPANESE COMBINE.

At the present time, says the *Japan Chronicle* of Aug. 19, there are four Japanese shipping companies operating their vessels on the Yangtse—the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, Hunan Steamship Company, and Daito Steamship company. The three latter companies receive a subsidy from the Government. A proposal was made some time ago to amalgamate these four services, and thus endeavour to extend the business to their mutual advantage. The project fell through, as the subsidised concerns were aware that in the event of incorporation the subsidies would cease to be paid. The subject has again been mooted, and the companies' interested have agreed to form a combine for the purpose of competing against the other foreign steamers.

Mr. Kondo, President of the N.Y.K., will leave Japan at an early date for the purpose of investigating the shipping business in Korea and China. After visiting various ports along the Japan Sea, he will proceed to Fusan, Chemulpo, Tairen, Newchwang, Tientsin, and Peking. From the capital he will go to Hankow by rail, and after closely inquiring into the Yangtse business will embark at Shanghai for Japan. Mr. Harada, manager of the Osaka branch of the N.Y.K., will join Mr. Kondo at Fushiki.

CANTON CHAIR COOLIES ON STRIKE.

Canton is at present witnessing a strike of chair coolies, who object to the attempt of the authorities to enforce registration. The *Canton Daily News* explains the matter thus:—

In pursuance of a notice issued by the Chinese authorities and posted all over the city to the effect that the question of registration of chair coolies must be settled, about four hundred chair coolies met on Thursday at the Hoi Tong Chue Temple, Honam. It seems that the headman at a station in Wing On Street, in the West City and seven of his companions accepted the registration cards, as ordered by the authorities, and their action aggravated their numerous companions who through their headman, a certain Tse Cheun, called the meeting. After a lively discussion in which about 400 coolies took part, it was finally decided to use all means in their power to antagonize the efforts of the Authorities to collect a tax from each man and to force him to register. Besides forcing these regulations upon the coolies, the council goes further and says that the occupant is not to be charged for his fare, but payment according to a fixed tariff only must be collected. The coolies resented this, more especially as it will undoubtedly reduce to a great extent their earnings. The climax of the meeting was a vote to the effect that unless the diplomatic efforts of the Chairman of the meeting are successful in reducing the state of affairs which the Authorities seem determined in enforcing, the severe method of strike would be resorted to. So there is no chair available in the city at present.

PIRATES ATTACK SALT BOATS.

The *Canton Daily News* reports another attack by pirates on West River shipping.

An organized band of more than one hundred pirates attacked the salt boats at their anchorage in the Kwong Ning district near Wuchow, on the night of the 29th ult. The booty not only consisted of money and other articles, but also of five girls, daughters of some sailors. The affair was at once reported to the District Magistrate and afterwards to the Customs Commissioner at Wuchow, who ordered all efforts to be put forth to rescue the girls and bring the pirates to justice.

HONGKONG AND THE KWANGTUNG RAILWAY.

GERMAN COMMENT.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd remarks, in the course of a reference to the proposed appointment of a Belgian engineer for the Canton-Hankow railway:—

"If one remembers the fact that the Hongkong Government, about a year ago, put the necessary means at the disposal of the Governor-General at Wuchang for the redemption of the concession from the Americans and Belgians, we cannot help smiling at the irony of Fate which gives this matter a new aspect. One can easily understand that the Hongkong Government has emphatically protested against this intention of the railway administration, and bases its contention on the fact that it only supplied on the condition that only English or Japanese engineers should be engaged. Of course, the Chinese will answer, and with some just ground, that the Hongkong Government has made this treaty not with the right person; though Governor-General Chang Chih-tung has redeemed the concession from the Americans and Belgians, the railway is not built by him or the Chinese Government, but by a private company, which is in no way bound by the agreements of Chang Chih-tung. One is curious to know how this unpleasantly complicated matter will further develop."

On August 29th Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for sale by public auction the leasehold properties known as Sections B. and C. of Sub-section No. 6 of Section A. of Island Lot No. 120, with the premises thereon known as Nos. 23 and 25 Elgin Street. They were knocked down to Mr. Li Wai-tung for \$14,300.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY.

The half yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held at the Hotel on Sept. 1st. Mr. W. Hutton Potts presided and there were present Hon. Mr. E. Osborne (director), Captain W. Clarke, Messrs. E. D. Haskell, C. W. May, F. Maitland, Lo Cheung-shiu, E. S. Kadoorie, F. B. L. Bowley, A. Rumjahn, and C. Mooney (secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. We regret having again to submit an account showing a heavy loss over that of the corresponding period of last year. This is mainly accounted for by the falling off in receipts from the bars and extra meals, and we can only hope that trade will revive when the alterations on the ground floor, at present under way, are completed, though with the keen competition now ruling, the withdrawal of the fleet, and the general depression in trade, we don't look for any marked improvement for some time. You will notice that, while the working account shows a decrease of \$37,000 odd, the difference in profit and loss is only \$24,900 odd, owing to the rent received from the Mansions, but against this we have extra interest and insurance to meet. The two top floors of the Mansions are, as no doubt you are aware, leased by the Hotel, but as it has been impossible to keep them fully occupied, we are endeavouring to let them out as offices or chambers, but without much success. We debated for some time whether we should recommend the dividend shown in the report as the prospect ahead is anything but encouraging, the profit for July being \$1,800 less than in July last year, but as there were some five months still to run, we decided it was better not to reduce until compelled, but we must impress on you the fact that without an improvement in trade during the balance of six months, the dividend in February will have to be reduced, as although we are looking very sharply into and cutting down all expenses it is impossible to go beyond a certain point without interfering with the comfort of residents. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders might like to put.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BOWLEY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. MAITLAND, seconded by Captain Clarke, the confirmation of the appointment of Dr. Noble to the Board of Directors was confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne was re-elected director on the motion of Mr. HASKELL, seconded by Mr. LO CHEUNG-SHIU.

Mr. RUMJAHN proposed, and Mr. BOWLEY seconded, the re-election of Messrs. H. W. Jefferies and A. R. Lowe as auditors. This was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING WEAVING AND DYEING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the ninth ordinary meeting to be held at the offices of the General Managers on Saturday, 8th September, at 12.30 p.m., reads:—

The General Managers beg to submit a Statement of Accounts covering the period from 1st August, 1905, to 31st July, 1906.

The balance at Credit of Profit and Loss Account is \$307,910.48, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent. for the year	\$125,000.00
To pay a bonus of 2½ per cent. for the year	31,250.00
To place to Equalization of Dividend Fund	80,000.00

To write off Property Account	50,000.00
To carry forward to credit of next year's account	21,660.48
	<u>\$307,910.48</u>

CONSULTING COMMITTEE:

Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. A. G. Wood retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR:

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.

General Managers.

Hongkong, 23rd August, 1906.

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st July, 1906.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital account	1,250,000.00
Sundry creditors	676,007.17
Unclaimed dividends	4,30.80
Equalization of dividend fund	30,000.00
Profit and loss account	307,910.48
	<u>\$2,268,848.45</u>

ASSETS.	
Property—comprising land, buildings and machinery	1,331,527.79
Furniture	2,899.00
Sundry debtors	24,156.30
Cash	3,340.58
Cotton, value of stock	91,022.33
Yarn	763,010.00
Waste	2,501.50
Mill stores	38,988.94
Coal	3,769.67
Fire insurance and taxes pertaining to period after 31st July, 1906	2,609.34
	<u>\$2,268,848.45</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To remuneration to General Managers, 10 per cent. off balance of working account	31,984.13
To remuneration of Consulting Committee	3,000.00
To auditor's fee	250.00
	<u>\$35,234.13</u>
To balance	307,910.48
	<u>\$343,144.61</u>

Cr.	
By balance from last year	23,264.32
By gain on working	319,841.29
By transfer fees	39.00
	<u>\$343,144.61</u>

SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED UPON THE CORPORATION.

The following are the instructions issued by the Government to the Promoting Committee of the South Manchuria Railway Company. The instructions are signed by the Ministers for Communications, Finance, and Foreign Affairs:—

The Committee being entrusted with the management of all affairs relating to the formation of the South Manchuria Railway, the following terms are imposed:—

Article I.—The company shall carry on railway traffic on the lines specified below, in compliance with the protocol annexed to the Japan-China Treaty signed on December 22nd, 1905, in regard to Manchuria:—

Railways between Tairen and Changchun, Nankwanling and Port Arthur, Tafenshing and Linsutun, Tashichao and Yingkou (Newchwang), Yentai and the Yentai colliery, Suchatun and Fuchun and Mukden and Antung.

Article II.—The railway lines enumerated in the preceding Article shall be reconstructed into a gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches within three years from the date on which the business of the company is opened.

The line shall be made double on the section between Tairen and Suchatun on the line between Tairen and Changchun.

Article III.—The company shall provide all the necessary accommodation at the principal stations on the company's line for giving lodging and food to passengers and also for storing goods.

At places where the railway line reaches a seaport accommodation shall be made to connect the traffic between land and sea.

Article IV.—The company may carry on the following business for the benefit of the railways:—

- 1—Mining, especially the working of the Fuchun and Yentai collieries.
- 2—Marine transport.
- 3—Electric works.
- 4—Sale on consignment of the principal goods carried by rail.*
- 5—Warehousing business.

6—Construction and administration of land and houses on the land belonging to the railway.

Article V.—The company shall, with the approval of the Government, make necessary provisions in regard to education, health, and engineering works within the limit of land belonging to the railway and other works of the company.

Article VI.—The company, with the approval of the Government, may collect fees from the inhabitants within the limit of land belonging to the railway and other works to defray expenses incurred for purposes specified in the preceding Article, and also impose other necessary charges.

Article VII.—The total capital of the company shall be Y200,000,000, of which sum Y100,000,000 shall be contributed by the Government.

Article VIII.—The share of capital to be contributed by the Government shall consist of the following property:—

- 1—Railway lines under operation.
- 2—All property belonging to the railway, exclusive of the property within the limit of the district under the lease of the Government, which will be specified.
- 3—Collieries at Fuchun and Yentai.

Article IX.—Rolling stock now used by the Government and the rails of light railway between Mukden and Antung and accessories shall be delivered at a proper price to the company.

Article X.—The shares other than those held by the Government shall be sold to the Japanese and Chinese.

Article XI.—When the dividend of the company for each business period does not reach 6 per cent. of the paid-up amount of the shares held by the shareholders, other than the Japanese and Chinese Governments, the Government shall grant a subsidy for dividend for fifteen years, or thirty business periods, but under no circumstances shall the subsidy exceed 6 per cent. of the amount paid up by shareholders.

Article XII.—When the dividend of the company for each business period does not exceed 6 per cent. of the amount paid up by the shareholders, the company need not pay a dividend on the shares held by the Government. The shares held by the Chinese Government shall be treated on the same level as those held by the Japanese Government.

Article XIII.—The Government shall guarantee the interest on the debentures to be issued by the company for raising the fund for the reconstruction of the railway lines or for conducting the complementary businesses of the company, or for the adjustment or redemption of the debentures so issued, and in case of need the Government may guarantee the principal as well. The face value of the debentures to be issued by the company shall not exceed the balance remaining unpaid of the private capital (Y100,000,000).

The debentures specified in the first clause of this article shall be redeemed within twenty-five years from the date of issue.

Article XIV.—The Government shall grant a subsidy on the debentures issued for the ends prescribed in the first clause of the preceding article. The sum of such subsidy shall be equal to the amount of interest due and granted from the month following the month in which the payment on the debenture has been registered. When the dividend payable to shareholders exceeds 6 per cent. of the amount paid up by the shareholders, the amount exceeding the rate shall be first appropriated for the interest on the debentures, and an amount equal to this shall be deducted from the subsidy payable on the debentures.

Article XV.—Any surplus profit, after providing interest on debentures, shall be allotted for dividend on the shares held by the Japanese and Chinese Governments up to a rate equal to all the paid up capital.

Article XVI.—The Government subsidies prescribed in Articles XI. and XIV. shall be debited each year with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum and made a liability of the company against the Government, and when dividend payable on the total shares paid-up exceeds 10 per cent. per annum, the amount exceeding the rate shall be paid for the redemption of the company's liabilities specified in the preceding Articles.

Article XVII.—Any surplus of money raised by the debentures specified in Article XIII. after using it for the ends specified, shall be deposited in the Deposit Bureau of the Government.

Article XVIII.—The company shall obtain the approval of the Government of the estimates of share money to be paid each year, and of the debentures to be issued, setting forth their face value, the issue price, the rate of interest and the date of issue.

Article XIX.—The company shall draw up regulations relating to the accounts and management of the business and obtain approval of the Government thereof. Similar approval must be obtained to any alteration in the said regulations and the Articles of Association.

Article XX.—Government approval shall be obtained for projected works, estimates of expenditure, receipts and expenditure, and rate of dividend for each business period. Approval shall be similarly obtained for any alterations necessary.

Article XXI.—The company shall report on the following matters as directed by the Government:—

1.—The expenditure on works and receipts and expenditure as they stand at any time.

2.—Condition of business in general.

Article XXII.—The company is not authorized, without obtaining approval of the Government, to dispose of important rights and property or to pledge them for security.

Article XXIII.—When deemed necessary the Government is authorized to order the company to reduce the freight on goods under special circumstances.

Article XXIV.—The Government is authorized, in case of need, to order the company to new provisions or alteration in existing works make in connection with the company's business.

Article XXV.—The company is under obligation to place at the disposal of the Government its railway, land, and other property at any time, as directed by the Government.

Article XXVI.—The provisions relating to the Government subsidy and guarantee specified in the instructions shall become binding with the approval of the Diet.

[It should be understood, notes the *Japan Chronicle*, that these regulations are open to amendment. The clause (Art. IV. No. 4) denoted by an asterisk, for example, has been disapproved by the Promoting Committee, and the Government has consented to the withdrawal of this clause.]

SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE SHIPPING PROPOSALS.

The publication of the Articles of Association of the South Manchuria Railway Company, which provides that the company should carry on a shipping business, has created alarm in shipping circles. A Tokyo dispatch states that the capital of the shipping business is fixed at ¥10,000,000, a sum large enough to conduct one of the leading steamship companies of the world. The South Manchuria Railway Company will endeavour to obtain freight and passengers for the return voyages of the steamers to be used in carrying coal to China ports, and may also open services between Japan and Tairen. When the steamers of the South Manchuria Railway Company commence to run on this line the Tairen service of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, the North China line of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and all other steamers engaged in Chinese coasting trade will be seriously affected. Shipping circles of this country are therefore looking forward to the opening of the South Manchuria Railway steamship service with considerable anxiety.

Dr. Furuichi, late President of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, has been nominated Vice-President of the South Manchuria Railway Company.—*Japan Chronicle*.

SHANGHAI'S CHINESE POPULATION.

Writing of the Chinese in Shanghai, the *Shanghai Times* says:—There are representatives here of every province, of every city almost within the confines of the Middle Kingdom; and there are also Chinese here, indigenous to the Settlements, for whom no claim can be advanced for the possession of these qualities which go to make the good citizen. The natives of other provinces settled down here are often turbulent and intractable, notably those who hail from Kwangtung and Chekiang; indeed, it may safely be said that nine-tenths of all the trouble that has ever taken place here is to be ascribed to these two elements of the native population, Cantonese and Ningpo-men. But it must by no means be understood that the Shanghai Chinese are always averse to evil courses, rioting, robbery and all the other forms of wickedness which the ill-disposed in all communities are prone to practice. If statistics on the subject were available, however, it is almost certain that the Shanghai-born and reared Chinese would be found to constitute a very moderate proportion of the wrongdoers who come under the notice of the authorities, which, to our mind constitutes a clear proof that the Shanghai Chinese are perfectly satisfied, content and prosperous under foreign Municipal government, and would be sorry to see the doctrine of "China for the Chinese" given effect to in a way that would result in the substitution of native for foreign control in the affairs of these Settlements. This state of mind, we consider affords one of the best guarantees we could have against the recurrence of outbreaks, on anything like a really dangerous scale, such as that of the 18th December last. And so long as recalcitrant officials, seditious newspapers and loud-mouthed, half-taught preachers of socialism and the doctrine that the foreigner is an interloper, whom the Chinese would do well to get rid of, let the people of these Settlements alone, that guarantee for the security of foreign life and property within the Municipal area will continue.

WHAT JAPANESE ARE TAUGHT ABOUT ENGLAND.

English readers may be rather surprised to hear that the pamphlet published at Oxford last year which predicted the downfall of England has not only been reproduced in Japan but if the translator's word is to be relied on, is about to be used as a class book in the Higher Primary Schools. The translator, a Mr. Teubaki, seems to be of opinion that the account given of the state of England in that essay is in the main true to facts, and his alleged object in giving publicity to the work here is to save Japan from England's impending fate. He says that the account given of the decay of all the finer moral sentiments, of the love of luxury and ease, of the neglect of rural pursuits and the dislike of a sea-faring life, and the like, apply to Japan even more than to England. The alleged proofs of England's decay are marshalled under no less than nine headings, which we give below. It is affirmed: (1) That the flocking to the towns which has been taking place during the past few decades has affected health and morals badly; (2) that the English as a nation have lost their love of the sea (the proof given of this is that in the English merchant service there are 501 foreign captains, 2,991 foreign engineers and 40,000 foreign sailors); (3) that love of luxury, ease, and showiness is on the increase; (4) that taste for good literature and high-class stage plays is rarely found; (5) that among Englishmen health and physical strength are both on the decline; (6) that the religious sentiment in England is at present very weak; (7) that taxes are on the increase and that municipalities indulge in unnecessary extravagance; (8) that England's system of education is most defective, both technically and morally; it does not create loyal subjects nor properly prepare children for the duties of life; (9) that England's national defences are inadequate; that she fails to see the need of providing herself with a properly trained army, that her empire is exposed to constant perils

from foreign foes. At the close of the book the translator says: "In a great many particulars Japan resembles England."

THE TAIREN AND ANTUNG CUSTOMS STATIONS.

JAPAN'S DIFFICULTY.

A telegram to the *Jiji Shimpō* from Peking says that the Japanese Representative in Peking has informed the Chinese Government that, in accordance with the spirit of the 2nd Article of her treaty with China and in accordance with the 10th Article of the Russo-Chinese Convention relating to the East China Railway, Japan is perfectly willing to have a Chinese Customs Station established at Tairen. Nevertheless it is obvious that if such a step be taken with regard to Tairen while, at the same time, goods are allowed to cross the Russian frontier into Manchuria duty-free, a situation of unfair discrimination will be created and the Japanese Government must require that this point shall be duly dealt with. It is further alleged that the United States Representative, Mr. Rockhill, brought this problem to the attention of the Waiwupu more than two months ago, and urged the Chinese Authorities to approach the Russian Minister at once with a view to some practical settlement, but the officials of the Waiwupu do not appear to have as yet taken any effective step.

The second article of the China-Japan treaty referred to above provides that "the Imperial Japanese Government engage that in regard to the leased territory as well as to the matter of railway construction and exploitation, they will, so far as circumstances permit, conform to the original agreements concluded between China and Russia."

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Chinaman at Singapore, after being arrested and fined at the Police Court, took another prisoner's property ticket from him, claimed his money at the Station, and paid his own fine with it! He was sentenced as an "old offender" to six months in prison.

The Japanese authorities have resolved to transfer the seat of government in Saghalien from Korsakovsk to Furoshi-niro'nka, about 20 miles from the former town, in the interior. Situated in about the centre of the island, in the midst of an extensive tract of fertile country, the new seat of government is considered in every way more advantageous, and the new regime will probably come into force next summer.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 1 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Summary Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1905; Ordinance No. 2 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance further to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890; Ordinance No. 3 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance relating to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court with respect to the care and commitment of the custody of the persons and estates of Lunatics; Ordinance No. 4 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Two hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twelve dollars and eight cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1905.

The *Japan Mail* remarks:—A telegram to the *Hochi Shimbun* from Peking alleges that Mr. Hayashi's negotiations with the Chinese Government have resulted in the settlement of two points; namely, the establishment of Chinese customs stations at Antung and Talingkau, and the cooperative exploitation of the forests on the right bank of the Yalu. We shall not be at all surprised if the Japanese Government is sufficiently quixotic to agree to the levy of duties on goods entering Manchuria either from the direction of the Yalu or from that of Liaotung even though goods entering across the Russian frontier are not condemned to bear any such impost. However, there is a very drastic remedy always available; for as soon as the term of military occupation ceases, the principal of the most-favoured-nation clause will come into renewed operation.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 22nd August, 1906.—Business reported since the 15th inst., is as under:—

	1906.	1905.
1-Chests.	1-Chests.	
Settlements ...	1,598	2,404
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ...	10,000	817

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 24th August, 1905.

	1906.	1905.
HANKOW TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	369,480	430,363
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ...	24,124	9,415
Stock ...	49,219	35,091

Arrivals...	442,823	474,860
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	1906.	1905.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	158,018	177,440
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ...	4,985	3,404
Stock ...	8,194	6,800

Arrivals...	171,197	187,659
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OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 23rd August, 1906.—Since the 9th August, our prices in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
9th Aug., 1906	937	2,038	1,028	1,814
Aug. 10th Imports per Malta	267	100	25	16
" 10th " " G. Apour		100	75	
" 16th " " Luwang		100	41	
" 21st " " Polynesian		25		
" 21st " " Oceania	383			91

Less Exports to Shanghai	1,577	2,301	1,168	1,721
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight...	74	157	37	
	170	571	250	186

Estimated Stocks this day	1,333	1,633	875	1,555
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Bengal.—The market has been quiet throughout the fortnight. At the close there is a steadier feeling prevailing, and the Chinese made some purchases of New Patna at \$945/947½. Prices are Old Patna \$955, Benares \$885, New Patna \$950, and Benares \$900.

Malwa.—There has been less doing during the fortnight, and prices declined \$20 all round.

Quotations are:—

New	\$ 930
2 years old	980
3 " "	1,040
4/5 " "	1,080
Oldest	

Persian.—Prices are steady at \$765/770 for best quality, but business has been small.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 23rd August, 1906, states:—There is little or nothing to write this week, and certainly nothing of an encouraging nature. It is many a long day since those at present engaged in the trade have seen such a state of utter stagnation as our market presents at this time. The trade seems to be paralysed, and there are no signs as to where relief is to come from. Exchange is higher, and cotton continues to decline, and until it can be seen with some certainty what the limit is likely to be in either case, forward transactions will remain at a standstill. There are no orders coming in from the markets at our dependencies that necessitate calling on first hand holders for supplies, and judging by clearances the dealers are receiving very few calls on their holdings. Clearances of Manchester goods have been fair, but not up to the average for the time of the year. American goods are moving very slowly, some weights being practically unsaleable at anything like their intrinsic values. The only ray of hope we see is in the rather freer buying of yarns, though stimulated no doubt by the easier prices accepted by holders, which shows that some of the markets are not absolutely dead, and the demand may extend to piece goods if adequate concessions can be arranged with holders here. What news has come in from the Out-ports during the interval has been of a rather unsatisfactory nature. Hankow has been visited by freshets which have

caused considerable loss to life and property. Then from Tientsin comes the news of the establishment of fresh Likin stations, which seems to be affecting dyed fancy goods in particular. These have probably been introduced to cope with the ever increasing trade that is being done direct with producing markets by the Tientsin importers, and the re-exports from this are incidentally being put through the same process, another breach of the treaty that is obstructing trade. The Japanese newspapers are publishing more openly and boldly the well laid plans that have been devised by leading commercial houses in that country and the Government for exploiting the trades of Manchuria and Corea, until there can be little doubt now as to what their ultimate designs are. The *Kobe Herald* of the 16th instant gives a translation from a vernacular paper of the complete scheme that has been evolved to usurp the position hitherto occupied by American and Manchester goods. Of course so long as they do nothing to infringe the terms of the Treaties, under which all nationalities are trading out here, no complaint can be made, even if the Japanese Government is actively assisting in pushing the trade, but it behoves the Home Governments of the interested parties to see the terms of the Treaties are strictly adhered to, so that there may be a fair field and no favour in the markets concerned. The Manchester trade, at all events, has had to contend against competition before this and is not yet defunct. With the decline in cotton the Manchester market is naturally easier, but manufacturers are apparently so well engaged that prices are not coming down as much as might otherwise have been the case. Still they are lower, the average on staple makes being about 5½d. since the beginning of May. The Liverpool quotations for cotton received yesterday were 5½d. for Mid-American, and 10½d. for Egyptian. The demand for Indian Spinnings has been somewhat stimulated by some liberal concessions in prices, and rather freer sales are reported. Hongkong is in a very parlous state owing to the heavy stock there. Several failures have taken place and an endeavour is being made to remedy the situation by abstaining from further importations, by mutual agreement, for a certain period; but it is difficult to see how that would work. Shanghai would be quite ready to send down supplies if their market offered any inducement. As to Japanese yarns they keep remarkably steady, but deliveries do not compare so favourably with last year, up to date, as do the Indian Spinnings. Local yarns are not being exported so freely as last year. Cotton is steadily declining in consequence of the splendid prospects for the new crop. Conditions appear to have been most favourable and a bumper, if not record, production is now anticipated. The auctions quite belie the situation and all we have written about it. Judging from them it might be inferred that the market was going on swimmingly, for really prices are keeping up remarkably well; as to whether they are paying or not is another question. Any how, they are absolutely the only indication of the tone of the market.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 22nd August, 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected...	Tls. 36.00
Do. Seconds	32.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	18.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	(nom.)
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi	10.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	9.90
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.25
Jute	5.25
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and or Macheng	10.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	9.70
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.50
Do. Plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	9.00
Do. Woukong	11.00
Black Bristles	115.00
Feathers, Grey and or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	(")
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	4.40
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.50
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.70
Tea Oil	(nom.)

Messrs. Arnold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, date Shanghai, 20th August, 1906, states:—(Gallnuts.—Reports from the interior have it that there will be a plentiful supply of plumshaped Gallnuts. No reliable news to hand yet about the crop of usual Galls. Some business has been done in usual and plumshaped, but at the moment dealers are not open for any business in the former. Cowhides.—Season closed. Tobacco.—The first parcels of the new crop are expected to come in shortly. Feathers.—Very little doing as the market is almost bare of stocks. Cotton.—Prices are firm, and as there has been a smart drop in American Cotton, the China product does not interest consumers at home at the present quotation. Tallow.—Very little doing. Goatskin Rugs.—Season closed. Wool.—No stocks.

Per steamer *Orestes*, sailed on 15th August. For Antwerp: 51 bales feathers, 100 bales cassia, 103 bales canes. For Amsterdam:—100 cases preserves. For Rotterdam:—400 cases cassia. For London:—251 half-chests tea, 120 bales canes, 250 bales cassia, 132 bales feathers, 300 casks soy, 15 cases preserves. For London or Hamburg or Antwerp:—50 cases bristles. For Antwerp or Hamburg: 50 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—150 bales galangal, 25 bales mats, 60 bales canes.

Per steamer *Tydeus*, sailed on 18th August. For Liverpool direct:—100 bales mats, 358 bags ore, 400 bales hemp, 21 cases ginger, 82 cases sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Dakhi*, sailed on 25th August. For Manchester:—5 bales waste silk (opt.) For London:—1 case books, 17 pieces ivory, 11 cases silks, 2 packages sundries, 7 packages curios, 1,959 packages tea, 1 case glass bangles, 202 bales waste silk, 115 bales raw silk, 3 cases feathers. For Gibraltar:—2 cases curios, 2 cases silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—330 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—275 bales raw silk, 3 cases feathers, 2 cases silks.

Per steamer *Sunda*, sailed on 29th August. For London:—4,873 packages tea, 250 rolls nutting, 200 cases cassia, 8 bales waste silk, 5 cases blackwood ware, 1 case silks, 1 case copper gongs, 3,215 packages preserves, 3 cases hats, 1 case Japanese screens, 200 bales bamboo, 79 packages merchandise, 1 case guns, 4 cases aniseed oil, 11 cases shells, 5 cases human hair.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, Sept. 3rd.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	273
Credits 4 months' sight	277
ON GERMANY.—On demand	222
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	52½
Credits, 60 days' sight	53½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	161½
Bank, on demand	161½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	161½
Bank, on demand	161½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	106
ON MANILA.—On demand	105½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	7½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	130½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1½ p.m.
ON BANG OK.—On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$48.70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	30½

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez): Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland): Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 30th August, 1906.

Apricot	\$16 to \$17
Borax	\$18 .. \$21
Cassia	\$14 .. \$18
Cloves	\$19 .. \$24
Camphor	\$150 .. \$155
Cow Bezoar	\$140 ..
Fennel Seed	\$7 ..
Galangal	\$2 .. \$4
Grapes	\$13 ..
Kismis	\$15 ..
Glue	\$23 ..
Olibanum	\$4 .. \$12
Oil Sandalwood	\$225 .. \$325
„ Rosa	\$50 .. \$160
„ Cassia	\$14 .. \$18
Raisins	\$6 .. \$9
Senna Leaves	\$3 .. \$5
Sandalwood	\$24 .. \$30
Saltpetre	\$11 ..

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st August, 1906.—We have a quiet week to report, with but little business and no very material changes in rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been neglected, and we have no sales to report, notwithstanding a rise in the London rate to £95. 10s. cum div. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at the reduced rate of \$785, closing steady at that. Cantons are now on offer at \$325 without leading to business. Yangtszes are obtainable at \$172½, but offers at lower rates fail to bring out any shares. North Chinas are unchanged and without any local business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong continue in demand at \$325, but we have not heard of sales. Chinas have further improved to \$93 with sales.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to \$28 after small sales at \$27½ and close in demand. Indos have ruled rather easier, and shares are obtainable at \$74. China and Manilas, after sales at \$23, have been placed at \$24 and close steady at that rate. Douglases continue neglected at \$47. Shells have ruled firmer, and a demand at 27/6 has not been met.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, contrary to expectations, were enquired for over the settlements, and the rate rose with but little business to \$160. The market closes with buyers and no sellers at the rate. Luzons are enquired for at the improved rate of \$22½.

MINING.—With the exception of some sales of Raubs at \$7 we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined to \$138 ex div., without any business to report. Kowloon Wharves have found buyers at \$106, \$105½ and \$105 cum div. of \$2½ paid on the 29th inst., and close with buyers at \$102½ ex div. Shanghai Docks have ruled rather firmer during the week, and close at Tls. 103. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves improved to Tls. 247½ cum div. of Tls. 8 just paid, and close steady at Tls. 240 ex div.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with small unimportant sales at \$110, the market closing with a few shares on offer at that rate. Hongkong Hotels have again changed hands at \$20 and are still in demand. Humphreys have receded a little, and after small sales at \$11½ are not saleable over \$11. Shanghai Lands have further fallen to Tls. 108. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are down a point in Shanghai to Tls. 77, and Soy Chees have improved to Tls. 315. Hongkong have been placed at \$15½ and close with sellers. This Company's report now published recommends the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., a bonus of 2½ per cent., and the placing of \$30,000 to an equalisation of dividend fund, also writing off property account \$50,000, and carrying forward \$21,66½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Albambas are enquired for at \$100. China Providents at \$9½ after sales at \$9.40. Trams at \$235, and Watsons at \$13. We have only small sales of Dairies at \$17, Green Islands at \$22, China Lights at \$10½, and of Watsons at \$13 to report under this heading. Morning Posts have improved to \$20½ with buyers.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$835, ex div. L'don, £95.10, c.d.
National B. of China		
A. Shares		\$26½ \$47
Bell's Asbestos E. A. 12s. 6d.		\$7
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10½, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 77
Hongkong	\$10	\$15½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 68
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 315
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$102½, x. d., buy.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$137½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$18, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 102, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 240, ex div.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$22½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric.	\$10	\$15, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$235, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$120, sales & buy.
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$236, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$8, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$325, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$93
China Traders	\$25	\$100, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, buyers
North China	\$5	Tls. 85
Union	\$100	\$785
Yangtsze	\$60	\$172½, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$110
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 108
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbounages	Fcs. 250	\$450, nominal
Raubs	18/10	\$7, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$160, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22½, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila.	\$25	\$24
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$47
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$28, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$74, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	27s. 6d., buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$29, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$20, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	nominal
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$21, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10½, sales
Watkins	\$10	\$4½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending August 23rd, 1906, states:—A general improvement has to be noted in the price of nearly all stocks during the last two weeks. Very little business has been done in Shanghai

Dock and Engineering Co. Shares, but quotations rule somewhat high. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No business reported locally. Hongkong quotes \$850 buyers, and the latest London quotation is £93. 10s. The T. T. on London to-day is 2/11½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos/Rates have improved for this stock, and shares are in demand at Tls. 54 for cash, and Tls. 57 December. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Preference Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 50. There are no quotations for Ordinary shares, but there are sellers at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are quoted at Tls. 244 and Tls. 245 September, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. A very limited business has been done in this stock. Business is quoted at Tls. 93 and 98 December, but Tls. 100 is now obtainable for both cash and December shares. Sugars.—Peraks have changed hands at Tls. 85. Mining.—Kaiping Mining Co. Shares are in demand at Tls. 10. Weihaiwei Gold Mining. No business reported. Industrial.—China Flours have been dealt in at Tls. 65. One lot of Kalumpung Rubber Shares has changed hands at Tls. 46. Shanghai Ice Co.—These shares are quoted at Tls. 26. Shanghai Gas Co.—A fair business has been done in this stock owing to holders selling out some of their shares to obtain funds to take up new issue. Although these funds will not be required for some time, the Gas Co. are prepared to pay 6 per cent. for all sums deposited with them against purchase of the new issue, and the proposal is a tempting one to holders. Cotton Stocks. A fair business has been done in all stocks under this heading, and shares are firm at quotations. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz are quoted at \$23. Dunning & Co. \$52½. Astor House Hotel \$30 ex div. Miscellaneous.—A fair number of transactions have taken place in Telephones at Tls. 63. Shanghai Electric and Asbestos Co. Shares changed hands at \$26½. Loans and Debentures.—An operation is reported in Astor House Hotel 8 per cent. Debs. at Tls. 105, while there is a demand for all debentures.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 24th August.—Freights are weaker all round. From Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents nominal; to Philippines, 24 cents for small and 21 cents for medium sized carriers; to North Coast Java, 20 cents per picul last. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents last. From Iloilo to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul; to Ningpo, 27 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents last. From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.20 for large and \$1.30 for small steamers; to Swatow, \$1.40 last; to Amoy, \$1.70 per ton. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.10 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Wik—German steamer, 1,810 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
 Yatshing—British steamer, 1,424 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
 Ravn—Norwegian steamer, 795 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
 Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Moji or Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.25 and \$1.35 per ton.
 Sexta—German steamer, 987 tons, Moji or Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.25 and \$1.35 per ton.
 Pelus—British steamer, 4,800 tons, Moji to Hongkong (4,000 tons), \$1.20 per ton.
 Waishing—British steamer, 1,170 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$1.70 per ton.
 Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.10 per ton.
 Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.
 Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (27,000), 23 cents per picul.
 Lisa—Swedish steamer, 1,216 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 32 cents per picul.
 Loyal—German steamer, 1,217 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 21 cents per picul.
 Nord—Norwegian steamer, 780 tons, Saigon to one port Cebu, 23 cents per picul.
 Clara Jebben—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java (September), 20 cents per picul.
 Hilary—German steamer, 1,276 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java (September), 20 cents per picul.
 Cairo—Norwegian steamer, 1,381 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java and two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong (October), private terms.
 Kuvloon—German steamer, 1,437 tons, two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul.
 Quinta—German steamer, 987 tons, Sourabaya to Hongkong, \$9,800 in full.
 Marie—German steamer, 1,169 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, \$5,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—

ARRIVALS

- 23, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 24, Tsinan, British str., from Kobe.
 25, Albenga, German str., from Shanghai.
 25, Colombo Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 25, Frithjof, Norw. str., from Coast Ports.
 25, I. F. Chapman, Amr. ship, from Manila.
 25, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 25, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 25, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 25, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Shahjehan, British str., from Saigon.
 25, Tiger, German gunboat, from Kiauchow.
 26, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Austria, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 26, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 26, Daphne, German str., from Moji.
 26, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 26, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
 26, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 26, Namsan, British str., from Calcutta.
 26, Ningpo, British str., from Swatow.
 26, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 26, Saint Helena, British str., from Calcutta.
 27, Bellerophon, British str., from Liverpool.
 27, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 27, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Glenearn, British str., from London.
 27, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 27, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 27, K'angping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
 27, M'foo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 27, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 27, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 27, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 27, Senegambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 27, Shaoxing, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Strathmore, British str., from Staagen.
 27, Victoria, Swedish str., from Sourabaya.
 27, Yangmo, Korean str., from Kuchinotsu.
 27, Yatshing, British str., from Moji.
 28, Alcinous, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
 28, Castor, Norwegian str., from Langkat.
 28, Eastern, British str., from Japan.
 28, Fiume, German str., from Iloilo.
 28, Madel, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 28, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Swatow.
 28, Sullberg, German str., from Amoy.
 28, Alex. Wintzel, Rus. str., from Shanghai.
 29, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29, Holstein, German str., from Hoihow.
 29, Kashing, British str., from Swatow.
 29, Masan Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 29, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 29, Providence, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 29, Sunda, British str., from Yokohama.
 29, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 30, Mercedes, British str., from Weihaiwei.
 31, Clara Jebesen, Ger. str., from Samarang.
 31, Cranley, British str., from Cingwantao.
 31, Glenfalloch, British str., from Sourabaya.
 31, Taming, British str., from Manila.

September—

- 1, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 1, Eclipse, British bark, from New York.
 1, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 1, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 1, S. P. Hitchcock, Amr. ship, from Manila.
 1, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Zoroaster, British str., from Moji.
 2, Dupetit Thouars, French str., from Chefoo.
 2, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 2, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 2, Machaon, British str., from Liverpool.
 2, Tientsin, British str., from Tamsui.

August—

DEPARTURES.

- 25, Benvorlich, British str., for Kohsichang.
 25, Cylops, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Delhi, British str., for Europe.
 25, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, Kawachi Maru, French str., for Kobe.
 25, Kohsichang, German str., for Swatow.
 25, Kowloon, German str., for Java.
 25, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
 25, Progress, Ger. str., for Kwangchowwan.
 25, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26, Aeon, British str., for Newcastle.
 26, Colombo Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 26, Haiman, British str., for Coast Ports.

- 26, John Hardie, British str., for Singapore.
 26, Joshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 26, Kweichow, British str., for Tientsin.
 26, Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
 26, Peik, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 26, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Swatow.
 26, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
 26, Tonawanda, British str., for S. Francisco.
 26, Virginia, British str., for Newcastle.
 27, Albenga, German str., for New York.
 27, Calabria, Italian cruiser, for Saigon.
 27, Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 27, Tiger, German gunboat, for Canton.
 27, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 27, Achilles, British str., for London.
 28, Amoy, German str., for Saigon.
 28, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 28, Austria, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 28, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 28, Catherine Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
 28, Elis, Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Frithjof, Norw. str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 28, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
 28, Mongol'a, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 28, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 28, Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Kobe.
 28, Signal, German str., for Pakhoi.
 29, Aragonia, German str., for Moji.
 29, Bellerophon, British str., for Kuchinotsu.
 29, Cairo, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
 29, Glenearn, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Helena, German str., for Swatow.
 29, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 29, P. E. Friedrich, German str., for Europe.
 30, Alex. Wintzel, Russian str., for Odessa.
 30, Rinh Thuan, French str., for Haiphong.
 30, Empr. of India, British str., for Vancouver.
 30, Fiume, German str., for Ningpo.
 30, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
 30, Senegambia, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Sunda, British str., for London.
 30, Yangmo, Korean str., for Kuchinotsu.
 31, Alcinous, British str., for London.
 31, Germania, German str., for Sydney.
 31, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 31, Prominent, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 31, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

September—

- 1, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
 1, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 1, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 1, Kashing, British str., for Tsingtao.
 1, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 1, M'foo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 1, Ningpo, British str., for Chinkiang.
 1, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
 1, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 1, Resolut, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 1, Shaohing, British str., for Ningpo.
 1, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 2, Cheongshing, British str., for Tientsin.
 2, Falk, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
 2, Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 2, Phuyen, French str., for Saigon.
 2, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 2, Rein, Norwegian str., for Aroe Bay.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. T. Nagans; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. B. Blythe and infant, Mr. and Mrs. J. Putill, Messrs. A. Clark, R. Jackson, T. Tanaka, K. Kichiyama, N. Namma; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Deane, Lieut. M. Fujita, Dr. C. S. Carlson, Prof. M. Ishihara, Prof. H. Nagai, Messrs. L. Shoobridge, S. Tasaki and A. Rebuffet.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. P. G. Elliott, L. B. Benley, I. O. Jones, I. G. Lang, R. B. Davis, H. H. Kenagy, F. G. Togelgren, Mrs. S. W. Dearth, Mrs. H. E. Lamb, Messrs. E. R. Swift, A. Suskina, R. Stempel, Edwin Wunk, Mrs. Von Stepski, Messrs. A. Thoma, J. G. Kinsche, Mrs. Kaempf, Dr. Kaempf, Mrs. and Miss Wynn, Mrs. G. M. McGuire, Miss J. A. McGuire, Messrs. H. W. Robbins, F. S. Spencer, E. S. Daniels and J. H. Trinpany.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, from Sydney for Hongkong, Messrs. Rud. Kahle, W. Garlick, A. Bellein and R. B. Simpson; from Simpsonhafen,

Capt. Windhorst, Messrs. L. Linde and A. Fischer; from Manila, Messrs. P. Heilbrunn, W. F. Laughlin, Dr. Phil R. Harrmann, Mr. L. F. Dee, Lieut. and Mrs. Lewis, Miss N. Murphy, Messrs. J. M. Devilbess, F. G. Repide, Max Dobbins, Chas. Goette, A. Shoemaker, Dosnino, Gregorio, and Dr. Sive.

Per *Athenian*, from Vancouver, &c., Miss Ella Mattheson, Miss H. Read, Mr. and Mrs. Moon, Miss Johnson, and Mrs. Carden.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Hongkong from Hamburg, Mr. D. Tanke, Miss T. Brehmer, Dr. Wallan, Mr. and Mrs. Bohlendorf Kalpin, Mrs. v. Wietzlaw; from Genoa, Lieut. v. Wietzlaw, Dr. Jur. Lucas, Messrs. Kammerherr v. Riepen, Lausen, Crangen, O. Halben, H. Ebell, E. Niewergott and K. Fiedler; from Penang, Mr. B. F. Madan; from Singapore, Major G. M. Evans, General Consul Kiliani, Messrs. E. S. Abdu Kader, W. R. Lawrence, W. Gouda, E. R. Matley, and Capt. A. Deuker.

DEPARTED.

Per *Mongolia*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Firey, Messrs. J. Abbey, H. W. Robbins, Rev. and Mrs. D. Loe, Messrs. F. W. and A. C. Lee, Mrs. W. P. Rutledge, Messrs. Gerald and Robert Malcom, Mr. R. R. Vidu, Master H. V. Burke, and Mrs. E. Hall.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Shanghai, Messrs. L. Focken, G. Focken, S. Weinberg, J. M. Pereira, L. Borbein, R. Simpson, Col. G. O. Sullivan, Miss E. Pereira; for Nagasaki, Mr. T. Robertson and family; for Kobe, Mr. G. Schantz; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Brown, Messrs. T. Danielsen, Talburt and Javellan.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, for Bremen, &c., Messrs. W. J. Adamson, J. Breuer, J. B. Buysenaars, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bele-Cost, Mr. and Mrs. G. Borendse, Mr. H. Brlich, Miss M. Byron, Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Batsheller and child, Mr. H. L. Coglan, Capt. Riecarlo Cipriani, Mr. Creek Canadaw, Miss MacUnloch, Mr. H. Capel, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cantiovitch, Messrs. F. von Dinter, Dee, Mr. and Mrs. Gaudry Fox, Messrs. Fischer, F. Friedlander, Mr. and Mrs. G. Faworke, Mr. H. Funke, Capt. Frontakewitch, Mrs. G. Gilchrist, Miss Gueritz, Messrs. E. Enrico Guido, Albert Hoyt, B. Haga, Mrs. Hampshire and 2 children, Dr. Raf. Hermann, Messrs. J. de Heer, A. H. Hopkinson, Beilbrunn, Mr. and Mrs. C. Harlopp and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. L. Hortins and child, Mrs. Johnson, Messrs. A. J. Ingermann, H. Jessen, H. R. Jance, H. J. Janssen, C. Judell, Mr. and Mrs. Kuro's and 4 children, Miss Kah, Mrs. C. Knaier and children, Mr. J. Kagemann, Mrs. Lecrouvreur, Messrs. Lloyd, M. Liebmann, D. G. van der Made, Miss McCulloch, Messrs. McLaughlin, McSanglin, A. de Mello, Miss Ella Matthews, Messrs. McKenzie, G. H. Meyer, McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. A. Murray, Mr. F. Merton, Dr. Michelsen, Mrs. Meyer and children, Mrs. Ellen O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Pijzel and 2 children, Miss Edith Ruhdel, Miss Hattie Read, Prof. Dr. and Mrs. Schaniasland, Mr. and Mrs. S. del and children, Mr. H. Schunemann, Miss Schrubsole, Mr. and Mrs. Salomon, Mr. A. v. d. Schmyt, Capt. and Mrs. von Sammern and children, Mr. Stagemann, Mrs. R. Simpson, Mrs. H. C. Thompson and child, Misses M. and B. Thompson, Messrs. G. Thiel, Ad. Widmann, Wendtland, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Windt and child Mr. H. Witte, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. M. West, Mrs. Watkins and son, Messrs. Th. Wendt, A. Ziegler and S. Zehndor.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. Macdonald, Master Hector Macdonald, Mrs. Tope, Miss Winsome Tope, Miss Dorothy Tope, Messrs. Richardson, Griswold, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Edgar, Messrs. W. E. Skinner, A. G. Bellis, M. Deyn, W. Wilbiss, Mrs. Max Dobbins, Comdr. C. C. Monroe, R.N., Comdr. H. du Cane Luard, R.N., Messrs. Geo. Main, Haterick, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hill, Messrs. Victor Williams, W. Litamore, Alex. Ross, Capt. O'Neill-Power, Mr. Chas. W. Uro, Mr. and Mrs. Bisschop, Messrs. Levein, Wolff, Butterworth, Mr. and Mrs. Jameson, Mrs. E. Mast, Messrs. G. Newington, Matley, Mrs. Peach, Mrs. Lyekum.

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